

STARS AND STRIPES®

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Quarterback
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SUNDAY, JULY 25, 2004

Insurgents in Iraq kidnap two officials

Latest captures suggest hostage takers now aiming for government players

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Unnerving situation

It's no secret that combat is stressful. But the 2nd Medical Brigade is trying to shoot down obstacles that keep troops in Iraq from seeking help.

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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

World

Madrid bombings: Spanish police found a rental car used by the Madrid train bombers, but much of the evidence was lost after the rental company cleaned the vehicle before police conducted forensic tests, a newspaper reported Saturday.

Police found the car June 13, more than three months after the March 11 Madrid train bombings, in the town of Alcalá de Henares, the departure point of three of the four trains bombed, the Madrid daily El Mundo reported, citing unidentified police sources.

Kabul rocket find: NATO peacekeepers discovered a cache of rockets on Saturday close to the Kabul International Airport in the Afghan capital, a spokesman said.

Forty rockets, 30 fuses and some wiring were found in a concealed store 1.2 miles from the main runway at the airport, said Cdr. Chris Henderson, a NATO spokesman.

French explosives experts from the international force removed the rockets. It was unclear if they were destroyed or handed over to the Afghan military.

Princess Diana memorial: The memorial fountain honoring Princess Diana was to remain closed through the weekend as construction experts try to figure out how to make it safer, London officials said Friday.

The water was turned off Thursday after three people got hurt when they slipped and fell in the Hyde Park fountain. Workers put up a seven foot fence around the fountain and roughened the texture of some of its stones to reduce the risk of slipping.

The parks agency called a meeting of designers, engineers and safety experts to investigate the accidents and consider how to make the fountain safer.

Business

Enron cases: A handwritten memo detailing secret side deals between Enron's former chief accountant Rick Causey and former finance chief Andrew Fastow guarantees Fastow-controlled LJM entities as much as \$50 million from Enron.

The note has led defense lawyers to predict that Causey is under pressure to seek a deal with the government, the Houston Chronicle reported.

The document — called the "global galactic" agreement by prosecutors — seemed a deal with the government, the Houston Chronicle reported.

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Doctor loses license: A doctor who headed the Presidential Advisory Council on AIDS and HIV during former President Bill Clinton's administration in the 1990s lost his medical license after being arrested for investigation of possessing a controlled substance.

Dr. R. Scott Hitt's surrender of his license became effective Tuesday.

On May 10, Hitt was arrested by Los Angeles police for investigation of illegal possession of a controlled substance. The medical board statement did not indicate what the substance was or whether Hitt was ever formally charged.

International space station: The international space station could be expanded beyond its current three crew-member capacity by the end of the decade under an agreement reached Friday by the station's 16 partners.

The space station would house a permanent crew of as many as six members as



Newest carrier: The Navy's newest aircraft carrier, the USS Ronald Reagan, has a fireboat salute as she enters San Diego harbor for a home-porting celebration, welcoming the ship to Naval Air Station North Island Friday in Coronado, Calif. The ship was commissioned in July 2003, and is completing a two-month transit around South America to her new homeport.

early as January 2009 under a deal reached at a meeting in Noordwijk, The Netherlands, by the heads of the space agencies involved in the station. The size of the crew depends on the number of Soyuz escape vehicles that can be docked at the space station.

"It's going to have to be more derivative of what a Russian Soyuz vehicle can handle," said Allard Beutel, a NASA spokesman in Washington. Each Soyuz can fit three people.

Fulton Co. sheriff suspended: Georgia's governor suspended the sheriff of the state's largest county only hours after a retired federal prison administrator was sworn in to take over the overcrowded jail.

Gov. Sonny Perdue acted Friday on the recommendation of a three-member panel he appointed to investigate allegations of mismanagement by Fulton County Sheriff Jackie Barrett.

The panel, made up of the state attorney general and two sheriffs, said it found reason to believe Barrett violated her duty when she invested \$7.2 million in public money in risky ventures, disregarding customary governmental safeguards. About \$2 million was lost.

Sniper trial: Lawyers for convicted sniper John Allen Muhammad want to bar a prosecutor from putting the killer on trial again because of arguments the prosecutor made during the trial of teenage accomplice Lee Boyd Malvo.

Defense lawyers Peter Greenspan and Jonathan Shapiro said in court filings released Friday that prosecutor Robert F. Horan Jr. made such a strong case that Malvo acted independently of Muhammad that they want Horan as a defense witness.

Calling Horan as a witness creates an inevitable conflict that requires Horan's removal

from the case, the lawyers wrote.

Chicken abuse: Federal compliance officers have been sent to the West Virginia processing plant where workers are accused of torturing chickens before slaughtering them, and a government spokesman said Friday it's unclear how long the investigation will take.

Pilgrim's Pride fired 11 of its employees, including several managers, on Wednesday and pledged to hold accountable anyone who knew of the abuse at the plant in Moorefield. The Texas-based company also put quality assurance monitors in place and said it re-educated workers at all its North American plants about humane treatment.

Alien fish: A nonnative fish known for its appetite and ability to wriggle short distances on land has been discovered in a Philadelphia waterway, raising concerns about its effects on native species.

An angler caught two Northern snakeheads in a lake last week and contacted the Fish and Boat Commission, which then caught three more snakeheads. The commission said it believes the fish, native to Asia and Africa, are present in other local waterways.

DotComGuy trademark: The attempt by the man formerly known as DotComGuy to sell his trademark name on eBay didn't work. The only bidder failed to meet the \$100,000 minimum bid. The auction began July 13 and ended Friday at 5 p.m.

Mitch Maddox, who legally changed his name to DotComGuy in 1999, had hoped to sell the trademark and related Web site so he and his wife could make a down payment on a house, the Fort Worth Star-Telegram reports.

From The Associated Press

Increased kidnapping threats trouble the Iraq

Egyptian diplomat, top Iraqi businessman taken hostage; Allawi urges Egyptians to stay

BY RAVI NESSAMAN

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Iraqi interim Prime Minister Iyad Allawi urged Egypt on Saturday to stand fast in the face of the kidnapping of one of its diplomats and ignore militants' demand that it abandon any plans to lend security assistance to Iraq.

The crisis, along with the kidnapping Saturday of a top Iraqi businessman, came at an inopportune time for Allawi, who was traveling through the region trying to persuade reluctant Arab and Muslim countries to send troops here to help restore order to the violence-ravaged nation.

"It is time for us to close ranks to fight terrorism. There is no way to budge to terrorists and give them what they want," Allawi said in Damascus, Syria. "The only way to deal with terrorism is to promote justice and to close ranks, and we hope Egypt and the Egyptian government will act accordingly."

Militants grabbed Mohammed Munir Helmi Qutb, described as the third-highest ranking diplomat at the Egyptian mission here, as he walked out of a mosque Friday. In a video released by "The Lions of Allah Brigade," the militants said they had taken Qutb to deter Egypt from sending troops.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Aboul Gheit appealed to the kidnappers Saturday to show mercy and said his government was working quietly to free Qutb and an Egyptian truck driver held by other militants.

The kidnapping of a diplomat and Iraqi businessman Raad Adnan indicated that militants, who had previously preyed on truck drivers and other poorly protected foreign workers, were growing bolder and aiming much higher in their efforts to weaken the coalition and sow chaos in Iraq.

Gummen snatched Adnan, general director of Al-Mansour Con-



Interim Iraqi Prime Minister Iyad Allawi speaks to reporters at a news conference held jointly with his Syrian counterpart Naji Olari in Damascus on Saturday, following his meeting with Syrian President Bashar Assad in Damascus. Allawi urged Egypt to stay the course on Iraq after an Egyptian diplomat was kidnapped.

tracting Co., in a brazen daylight operation Saturday morning in southeastern Baghdad.

The kidnappers, wearing police uniforms, set up a fake checkpoint in the Zaiuena neighborhood and stopped Adnan's car, taking him and his driver hostage, according to police Sgt. Ahmed Ismael of the Zaiuena police station. His driver was quickly released, Ismael said.

Al-Mansour is a government-owned construction company that does building work for Iraq's ministries. Adnan, a construction engineer, was a member of the Baath party and helped build some of Saddam Hussein's presidential palaces.

The 15-month-old insurgency, punctuated by the kidnappings, almost daily bombings, attacks and sabotage, has badly damaged Iraq's efforts to rebuild the coun-

try after years of war and sanctions.

On Saturday, gunmen in three cars attacked a convoy carrying west Baghdad's police chief as he passed near the town of Mahmudiya south of Baghdad. Two bodyguards were killed, but the police chief, Brig. Sabah Fahad, escaped unharmed, said Mahmudiya hospital director, Dr. Dawoud al-Taie.

Attackers in two cars opened fire on a group of policemen at a checkpoint in the al-Shurta district of Baghdad on Saturday, injuring seven policemen, the Interior Ministry said.

A rocket exploded in the downtown Jubayra district in northern city of Samarra killing one man and injuring three other civilians early Saturday, police Maj. Sadoun al-Dulaini said.

In volatile Anbar province west

of Baghdad, a U.S. Marine died Saturday of wounds sustained during "security and stability operations" Friday, the military said.

And late Friday, saboteurs set off two explosions on an oil pipeline about 12 miles south of Samarra, police Capt. Khaled Abdul-Amir said Saturday. The pipeline stretches about 124 miles from al-Dora oil refinery in Baghdad to Beijing, north of Samarra. The extent of the damage was unclear.

Egypt said earlier this week it would consider sending troops here after Iraqis restored calm, but after Qutb's abduction, Aboul Gheit said that "sending troops or Egyptian military personnel to Iraq is not an issue on the table at all for Egypt."

Iraqi officials said Saturday they were working furiously to secure Qutb's release.

U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Friday, 899 U.S. service members have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq in March 2003, according to the Defense Department. Of those, 665 died as a result of hostile action and 234 died of non-hostile causes.

The British military has reported 60 deaths; Italy, 18; Spain, eight; Bulgaria and Poland, six each; Ukraine, four; Slovakia, three; Thailand, two; Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia and the Netherlands have reported one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 761 U.S. servicemen have died — 556 as a result of hostile action and 205 of non-hostile causes.

The latest deaths reported by U.S. Central Command:

Two soldiers were killed Thursday by an explosive attack near Samarra, Iraq.

The latest identifications reported by the Department of Defense:

■ No identifications reported.

"We will spare no effort to free the Egyptian diplomat," Iraqi Deputy Foreign Minister Hamed al-Bayyasi said.

Meanwhile, officials continued to work to free three Kenyans, three Indians and an Egyptian held by a different militant group.

That group, "The Holders of the Black Banners," demanded Wednesday that the truck drivers' company stop doing business in Iraq and their countries withdraw their citizens or it would begin kidnapping hostages Saturday night.

3rd ID gets orders to deploy

The Associated Press

FORT BENNING, Georgia — The Army's 3rd Infantry Division, which led the drive to Baghdad during the Iraq war, announced Friday that it has received orders to return for at least a year to fight insurgents and help the Iraqis establish their own government.

Col. Steven L. Salazar, a brigade commander, said the latest deployment could begin between November and February.

"The deployment is part of a planned rotation of forces," Maj. Gen. William Webster, the division's commander, said in a

statement. "We expect to be deployed for approximately one year. However, there are no guarantees. The situation on the ground and the needs of the theater command will ultimately determine their length of our deployment."

Two of the division's brigades are at Fort Stewart and a third is across the state at Fort Benning. The division's aviation brigade is at Hunter Army Air Field in Savannah.

Following a reorganization after the war, the division now has about 19,000 soldiers, up from 16,000 when the division led the charge to Baghdad in

April 2003.

"The deployment is part of a planned rotation of forces. We expect to be deployed for approximately one year."

Maj. Gen. William Webster
division commander

Hundreds attend funeral for Iraqis killed in van-tank crash

U.S. military launches investigation into the accident

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — About 500 people attended the funeral Saturday of eight members of an Iraqi family who were killed when the minibus that was bringing them back from a wedding party collided with a U.S. tank.

Seven Iraqi flag-draped coffins — including one containing two children — were brought on car roofs to the mosque in the poor northern Baghdad neighborhood of Hurriyah.

Narrow alleyways in the dusty residential area were crammed with people who followed the procession to the mosque for a prayer service.

The U.S. military has launched an investigation

into Thursday night's accident in northern Baghdad between the tank and the minibus, which was carrying revelers back to Baghdad from a wedding. Nine Iraqis were killed and 10 others injured in the accident, according to the military.

It was unclear where the ninth victim was buried.

There were no U.S. casualties, the military said.

Multinational forces also were investigating another fatal crash that occurred Friday between an armored vehicle belonging to forces from the Republic of Georgia and a car carrying Iraqis in Baquba, a city north of Baghdad.

The U.S. military and Iraqi police said two Iraqis died in the accident and two girls, aged 12 and five, were injured.

In Iraq, confronting 'the silent enemy'

Mental health pros say biggest challenge in treating stress is getting soldiers to ask for help

BY RICK EMERT
Stars and Stripes

The 2nd Medical Brigade, which oversees nearly all medical operations in Iraq, is chipping away at the barrier that keeps soldiers from seeking treatment for combat stress.

It's a fight Army social workers, psychologists and psychiatrists have been waging since post-traumatic stress disorder came into the spotlight following the Vietnam War.

A recent post-deployment screening conducted by the U.S. military showed that more than 50 percent of servicemembers were reluctant to seek treatment for combat stress because they feared it would affect their careers or future promotions.

But members of the brigade's Mental Health Section and the 785th Combat Stress Company say nearly all cases that are treated never even go into a soldier's medical file, let alone his personnel record.

"We don't upload their file to the promotion board to be looked at," said Maj. Geoffrey Grammer, medical director for the 785th Combat Stress Company in Baghdad. "We're not going to destroy careers. [Information] is kept in our files, but it is confidential. It does not go into their personnel file."

Of course, commanders and even peers may know that a soldier was treated for combat stress.

"Yeah, the commanders know," said Col. Bob Evans, senior clinician for the 785th Combat Stress Company. "A lot of them are appreciative of what we can do to help their soldiers. They become proud of the soldier's achievements."

More than 95 percent of all soldiers treated for combat stress, which includes stress caused by physical problems or even fatigue, return to duty in a matter of days.

"[The commanders] see somebody whose performance has suddenly gone way up, and say: 'Wow, you really fixed this guy,'" Evans said.

In most cases, like that of Staff Sgt. Richard Williams, a maintenance sergeant with the 1st Cavalry Division, the soldier is returned to the same position he held before treatment.

Only in rare cases where a soldier suffers a three-month absence, or others would be placed in a different section or status, such as under suicide watch or deemed

unable to carry a weapon, Evans said.

There are two to five reported suicides each month in Iraq, Grammer said. According to an Army report released in March, 24 soldiers deployed to Kuwait and Iraq committed suicide in 2003 — a rate of 17.3 per 100,000. The overall Army suicide rate during the same time period was 12.8 per 100,000 soldiers.

Williams was suffering from anxiety attacks, a condition he had before he deployed to Iraq.

"I had experienced this before but dealt with it," Williams said. "It was becoming difficult to concentrate. I became aware that my work performance was suffering."

Williams first talked to a chaplain, who suggested he try medication. He went to a nearby medical clinic and was put on the wrong type of medication.

After spending a night at the 785th Combat Stress Company's fitness center, and getting the correct medication, Williams was able to return to duty.

The fitness center refers more to mental stress than physical. Soldiers spend up to five days at the center for treatment and follow a scheduled routine of physical training, chores and relaxation in a less intense environment.

Williams admitted the first step to recovery was a big one.

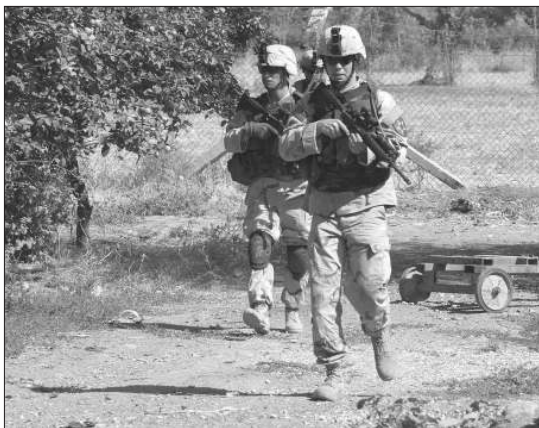
"It was easy to preach to my soldiers that they can get help, but it was not so easy taking my own advice," Williams said. "I was being a tremendous hypocrite. I had told my soldiers that it was nothing to be ashamed of or embarrassed by."

Returning to his unit after treatment was awkward, but Williams said he quickly got back into the swing of things.

"People looked at me funny for a day or two," he said. "I went up to each of my soldiers individually and explained my situation. It actually brought the team closer together. We're still a maintenance team, but we're also a support group. We're able to talk to one another about these issues that everybody here has."

Williams is one of many success stories of the mental health staffs throughout the theater. But other would-be success stories are not coming forward with their problems. The 2nd Medical Brigade and combat stress companies are trying to change that by reaching out to the soldiers.

In an average 72-hour period, combat stress staffs throughout



JEREMIAH JOHNSON/Courtesy of the U.S. Army

Soldiers search for weapons caches in Mosul, Iraq. The Army has sent a team of medical workers to Iraq to help soldiers fight combat stress. The combat stress teams are hoping that soldiers will become more willing to seek help if they need it.

Site eases access to combat stress help

BAGHDAD — Soldiers in Iraq can now find help to deal with combat stress in a matter of minutes, if they have access to the Internet.

The 2nd Medical Brigade's Mental Health Section created the Help 4 Web site so soldiers in even the most remote locations can get phone numbers for combat stress professionals.

The site, at www.mnf-iraq.com/2ndmed/index.htm, was a project three months in the making.

While the site has links to chaplains and sexual-assault victims' assistance, the most important tool to soldiers may be the Help 4 You map.

A soldier can click anywhere on the map, and a page comes up with phone numbers to the closest combat stress teams to that location.

"A combat stress [professional] answers and will say, for example, 'We're half a mile away from you; you can come to us or we'll come to you,'" said Capt. Jeffrey Greeninger, a social worker with the Mental Health Section.

"A soldier can talk about whatever, and that [combat stress] person makes the decision whether they need treatment or just need to talk," said Maj. Ronald Glaus, mental health psychologist.

The Web site allows soldiers to contact combat

stress professionals anonymously.

"They don't have to let the commander know; they can walk in," Glaus said. "They have the opportunity to do that."

However, most of the soldiers treated for combat stress, before the Web site was created, were referred by their commanders, said Col. Mike Warvarovsky, the section's psychiatrist.

"We don't want to bypass the chain of command," Warvarovsky said.

"We want to empower them and make them more effective."

Most of the site design was done by Sgt. 1st Class James McLeod, the section's senior noncommissioned officer.

"My biggest thing was to make it as simple as possible so that we don't lose focus on what we're trying to do with it," McLeod said.

The site also includes links to mental health articles and testimonials from soldiers who have received treatment for stress to encourage other soldiers to come forward if they need help.

"I don't want to hear a year from now that soldiers are going home and saying: 'Yeah, I had problems in Iraq, but I didn't know where to go to get help,'" Glaus said.

— Rick Emert

Help 4 phone numbers

The Help 4 Web site can be reached at www.mnf-iraq.com/2ndmed/index.htm. For those who don't have access to the Internet, the following phone lines are manned 24 hours a day:

Northern Iraq:

DNVT 302-553-9525

Central Iraq:

DNVT 302-558-5546

Southern Iraq:

DNVT 318-822-1322

Iraq will conduct about 180 walkabouts, where they meet with about 700 soldiers and talk to them as a preventive measure. That does not mean the staff treats that many soldiers, only that it speaks to them to get a feel for how things are going.

"We get out there to make ourselves more approachable,"

Grammer said. "If the soldiers know us by name and face, they are more likely to come by and talk to us. The biggest focus for us is seeing the people at all."

The staff members see about 88 command referrals during a typical 72-hour period, according to Capt. Jeffrey Greeninger, a social worker with the medical brigade's Mental Health Section.

Those are cases in which soldiers are referred for treatment by their commanders.

The staff also conducts classes on combat stress symptoms and relaxation techniques during that time, Greeninger added.

SEE STRESS ON PAGE 5

Stress: Staff works to get help to troops who need it

STRESS, FROM PAGE 4

A group of 12 mental health professionals visited the theater last year and identified ways to improve the situation here.

Among them was bringing in the 198th and 183rd Combat Stress detachments to add about 60 mental health professionals to the 60 from the 785th already in Iraq. The 2nd Medical Brigade also created the Help 4 Web site, at www.mnf4iraq.com/2ndmed/index.htm, to link soldiers up with the nearest mental

health resources available to them.

The combat stress staffs have spent months talking to commanders, platoon sergeants and section chiefs about getting soldiers the treatment they need.

Apparently, the word is getting out to the troops, like Sgt. Joseph Alonso, 478th Civil Affairs Battalion, and Spc. Christopher Schren, 1-244th Command Aviation

Battalion from the Louisiana National Guard.

"I haven't gone through combat

stress; so far, things are going pretty good," Alonso said.

"The [rest and recuperation] trips help, and the unit takes pretty good care of us."

But, Alonso added, he knows how to get help if he needs it.

"The command keeps us pretty well informed of numbers we can call for help," he said.

Sebren said he has experienced stress during events such as mortar attacks, but it subsides.

"After a few minutes it hits you what really just happened, but you try not to think about it too much," he said, adding that he would seek treatment if he felt the need, and that he was aware of whom to contact for help.

"It's no problem to find help here," he said.

Mental health staff members go out to even the most remote areas.

"We go in and develop relation-



"You can't run a Humvee all day long and expect it to keep going. Likewise, you can't run a soldier 12 hours a day for seven days a week and expect him to hold up."

Maj. David Rabb

Commander, 785th Combat Stress Company

ships with the soldiers," said Maj. David Rabb, 785th Combat Stress Company commander. "Stress is the silent enemy that can take people down. It's important that people do not isolate themselves."

"It is like PMCS [a system of maintenance checks performed

on Army vehicles] for soldiers," Evans said. "You can't run a Humvee all day long and expect it to keep going. Likewise, you can't run a soldier 12 hours a day for seven days a week and expect him to hold up."

E-mail Rick Emert at emert@mail.estripes.osd.mil

Russia still refuses troops

MOSCOW — Iraqi Foreign Minister Hoshiyar Zebari said on Saturday that Baghdad would like to have Russian peacekeepers, but the Kremlin restated its refusal to become involved in the messy conflict.

"We need Russian peacekeepers," Zebari said, according to the Interfax news agency.

But Russia's Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said Moscow had no intention of becoming involved. "This issue wasn't looked

into," Lavrov said at a news conference.

"There are no such plans."

Lavrov said that Russia was willing to contribute to by considering a restructuring of its multibillion dollar debt through the Paris Club of creditor nations and offering economic assistance and personnel training.

Jordan OKs S. Korea troops

SEOUL, South Korea — Jordan's King Abdullah II supported South Korea's plans to send 3,000 troops to Iraq in talks Satur-

day with South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun, officials said.

The king arrived in Seoul earlier Saturday for a three-day trip aimed at boosting economic and other ties. After the summit, the two governments signed treaties to protect investment and avoid double taxation.

"President Roh thanked the king for reconfirming his support for our government plans to send troops to Iraq," Roh's office said in a statement.

South Korea plans to dispatch 3,000 troops to the town of Irbil in northern Iraq next month, joining 600 troops currently

stationed in the country's south.

Powell travel includes Mideast

WASHINGTON — Secretary of State Colin Powell plans visits to Hungary, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Poland next week. In the Middle East, Powell will discuss the situation in Iraq, cooperation in the war on terror and the opportunities created by the proposed Israeli withdrawal from Gaza, State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said.

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Stars and Stripes reporter Terry Boyd speaks with Servicemembers from Triple Deuce at Firebase Purgatory.

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From left to right, Sgt. Wesley Parkhurst, Spec. Robert Isaacks, Terry Boyd, and Pfc. Michael Greenwood.

Gt awarded Silver Star for role in Iraq fight

Staff sergeant honored for gallantry under fire on Baqouba mission

BY RICK EMERT
Stars and Stripes

BAGHDAD — A 1st Infantry Division soldier was awarded the Silver Star Medal in a ceremony last week at Forward Operating Base Gabe in Baqouba, Iraq.

Staff Sgt. Raymond Bittinger, an infantryman from the 2nd Battalion, 2nd Infantry Regiment who is attached to 1st Battalion, 6th Field Artillery Regiment, received the award July 19 from the 1st Infantry Division commander, Maj. Gen. John R.S. Batiste.

Bittinger earned the award, given for gallantry against enemy forces, for his actions during a mission to secure the governor's mansion April 9 in Baqouba and Behriz.

When Bittinger's Bradley Fighting Vehicle, along with several other Bradleys, were given the order to break contact with the enemy, Bittinger's Bradley provided cover while other vehicles moved safely out of the area.

His Bradley was fired upon by three rocket-propelled grenades, one of which directly hit the vehicle and killed its gunner, Spc. Allen Vandayburg.

The multiple blasts also knocked the driver, Spc. Daniel Plata, then a private first class, unconscious and stunned Bittinger, according to a description of the events provided by Bittinger's unit. Bittinger continued to fight and move out of the area to get Vandayburg medical attention.

"Vandayburg fell over, and I realized he was hit," Bittinger said. "He was bleeding from his side, and I didn't want to move him because I thought it might be a back injury. I hoped he was just unconscious."



Photo courtesy of the U.S. Army

Col. Dana J.M. Pittard, 3rd Brigade Combat Team commander, salutes Staff Sgt. Raymond Bittinger, of the 2nd Battalion, 2nd Infantry Regiment, at Forward Operating Base Gabe near Baqouba, Iraq, last week. Bittinger was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry against enemy forces during a mission April 9.

Bittinger said he learned later from the medical staff at Forward Operating Base Warhorse that Vandayburg had probably died instantly in the explosion.

That evening, Bittinger's received orders to engage insurgents in the center of Baqouba.

He didn't hesitate. "I'm an infantryman," he said. "I still had a mission to accom-

plish."

The soldiers in his unit were hit hard by Vandayburg's death, though.

"The guys were bent over; they were crying," Bittinger said. "They were very upset."

Still, Bittinger called for two volunteers to join him in the Bradley to the next mission.

"We were going back on the at-

tack, and I needed a driver and gunner," Bittinger said. "More volunteered than I needed to take with me."

Plata, the driver on the previous mission, was gunner for the next one. Pfc. Joshua Bridges, a private at the time, was the Bradley driver.

Bridges was a Bradley driver for eight months last year before

returning to a dismounted line unit.

"A few people really wanted to go out," Bridges said. "I had experience driving and said I wanted to do it."

Despite being hit by an improvised explosive device en route, the crew killed five insurgents and wounded four. In the earlier mission, Bittinger's crew killed at least 10 insurgents, according to information provided by the unit.

Bridges said Bittinger was deserving of the award.

"It was great; I think he really deserved it," Bridges said. "He did a good job out there."

The Silver Star Medal is the Army's fourth highest award, surpassed only by the Medal of Honor, Distinguished Service Cross and Distinguished Service Medal. Since the war in Iraq began last March, 124 soldiers had been awarded the Silver Star as of May 31. By comparison, 399 had earned the Bronze Star Medal for valor over the same period.

Vandayburg was awarded the Bronze Star posthumously.

Bridges, Plata and Bittinger remain on the same crew more than three months after the incidents of April 9.

"It really brought us together as a team," Bridges said.

Bittinger said he was only doing his job — granted, a job that can be tough on most days.

"Basically, I just wanted to stop them. I wasn't thinking about anything else," said Bittinger, who was surprised to be awarded the medal. "We're here trying to keep peace, and you have all these people who suddenly want to kill you. It's amazing how quickly they can turn on you."

E-mail Rick Emert at: emert@mail.strips.esd.mil

Idea to extend Guard past 2 years met with disfavor

BY SIG CHRISTENSEN
San Antonio Express-News

BAGHDAD — A Pentagon plan to extend the tours of part-time troops on active duty in Iraq met with a resounding thumbs down Thursday from National Guard soldiers here.

Troops attached to the Fort Hood-based 1st Cavalry Division said extending National Guard and Reserve tours beyond a two-year limit set by the Defense Department would strain their families and possibly even jeopardize jobs.

"I'm getting out of the first opportunity I get. I didn't sign up to be away from my family for two years unless something catastrophic happened, and what's going on here in Iraq is not what the National Guard is for," said Staff Sgt. William Hardin, a 12-year veteran of the Arkansas National Guard.

"They need to draft folks and send me home," said Staff Sgt. Larry Cooks, a 46-year-old forklift operator from Stamps, Ark.

Pentagon spokesman Bryan Whitman said the Army has not made the proposal, which became a hot topic of discussion among Arkansas Guard members here at Forward Operating Base Warrior after it

Plan dropped by Army, while Arkansas Guard troops vent frustrations over long deployments

was detailed in Thursday's edition of Stars and Stripes.

He said the plan only would have affected the 39th Brigade Combat Team.

About 450 members with the team in Taji, north of Baghdad in the Sunni Triangle, came to Iraq in April after six months' peacekeeping duty in the Sinai desert and are due to return home this fall.

Arkansas Guard Staff Sgt. Joe James was glad to hear the Pentagon had dropped the idea, but he and other soldiers agreed there are no guarantees they won't stay in Iraq longer.

"They've told us so many different stories, it's not even funny," James, a 20-year veteran, said at a ribbon-cutting ceremony for a recreation center in Baghdad's International Zone.

A Los Angeles Times story in Stars and Stripes said the 39th Brigade troops would hit the 24-month point in September and that the commander, Brig. Gen. Ronald Chastain, asked the Pentagon to extend their tours. Army Chief of Staff Peter Schoomaker and Defense Secretary Donald

Rumsfeld confirmed the idea was under consideration, but they insisted no decision had been made.

Hardin, 34, of Magnolia, Ark., conceded he has only himself to blame for joining and staying in the Guard. But, he added, this is his last tour.

Family ties were on the minds of many, including one high school football coach.

"If they extend two years, that's crazy," said Capt. Chad Spradlin, 26, of Hot Springs, Ark. "You might as well kiss your family life goodbye."

Two soldiers in his squad were forced to leave college on the eve of their graduations.

Sgt. Seth Collins, 24, of Prescott, Ark., was halfway through his final semester at Henderson State University when he left Arkansas for training at Fort Hood. He was later kept in uniform after the Army blocked his scheduled discharge under its "stop-loss" program.

"Yes, we are in the Army; yes, we have military obligations," said Collins, 24, of Prescott, Ark. "We've fulfilled that. But un-

"I'm getting out the first opportunity I get. I didn't sign up to be away from my family for two years unless something catastrophic happened, and what's going on here in Iraq is not what the National Guard is for."

Staff Sgt. William Hardin

12-year veteran of Ark. National Guard

like the regular Army, which is their job every single day, we have civilian jobs and civilian lives. So pretty much you're doing is flipping a switch on your life.

"You go from daylight to dark and you start over again."

(Reprinted with permission from San Antonio Express-News)



PHOTOS BY KEVIN DOUGHERTY/Stars and Stripes

Above: Well-wishers turned out in force to welcome nearly 300 troops from the 4th Brigade, 1st Armored Division, based in Hanau, Germany. **Right:** The crowd roared as the troops marched into an aircraft hangar on Fliegerhorst Casern in Hanau.



There's no place like home for 1st AD troops

BY KEVIN DOUGHERTY
Stars and Stripes

HANAU, Germany — Looking up at her dad, Kayla Krings wiped the tears from her eyes as she began to ponder the question.

It seemed the more Kayla thought about what it was she wanted to do with her father, now that he is home, the more choked up she became.

"Everything," the 9-year-old said, glancing back up at her father, Maj. Troy Krings, 2nd Battalion, 501st Aviation Regiment. "I want to do everything."

Making up for lost time is something a lot of people affiliated with the 1st Armored Division can identify with in these heady days of homecoming ceremonies.

Two hours before Krings and the other honored guests marched into view, Trisha Wilson and a few friends sat waiting in an empty aircraft hangar in Hanau.

"I've got butterflies," Wilson said, referring to her husband, Sgt. Donta Wilson, 69th Chemical Company. "It's like I'm meeting him all over again."

Seated near Wilson was Capt.

Sara Mann. For an hour or so, Capt. Nathan Mann and his wife had been sending messages to each other via cell phones.

"Some of them I can't share," Mann said with a lover's grin.

"Oh," Mann called out to the group after reading the latest update, "they're in a [traffic jam] now."

Fortunately, the buses ferrying the lucky contingent of 4th Brigade troops from Rhein-Main Air Base to Fliegerhorst Casern didn't get stuck in traffic for too long. Shortly after 2 a.m., the buses pulled up to another han-

gar on post, one used to collect weapons, computers and other sensitive items.

Given all they've gone through in Iraq over the past 15 months, the troops were remarkably subdued. While there was some laughter and backslapping, most of the soldiers looked dog-tired from the daylong odyssey. "They've been in the pipeline so long, they're kind of numb," said Maj. Blake Burslie, the brigade's rear detachment commander.

Before the troops could progress to the next stage — reunion with family and friends — they had to turn in their weapons, computers and other gear, such as night-vision goggles.

Sgt. Paul Mayer and several other soldiers pumped their fists into the air after the Army formally relieved them of their M-16 rifle, something that rarely left their side for long.

"I'm happy," said Pfc. Terrell Pulliam, referring to the separation. "I hate that thing."

It took Capt. Jake Landry, who was overseeing the process, and the roughly 100 soldiers who were supporting the effort, about an hour to clear all 299 soldiers.

Soon, flags were being unfurled and gear was being thrown back on for the mission's final march. The five units on hand — the head-

quarters people, the chemical company, the 127th Aviation Support Battalion, and the 1st and 2nd Battalions of the 501st — lined up for some last-minute instructions.

The march between the two hangars amounted to only a few hundred yards, but in many ways it signified a breaching of two worlds: one of chaos and caution to one of comfort and care.

As the soldiers rounded a corner, the soft sound of soles slapping asphalt was gradually overtaken by the melody of Lee Greenwood's song, "God Bless the USA."

"When you hear the noise," Sgt. Maj. William McNeal said to the troops as they neared the hangar, "I need you to hold tight (with your emotions) for just a while longer."

Out of the shadows, the soldiers soon stepped into the glow of bright lights, which grew in intensity the closer they got to their destination. As McNeal predicted, the crowd erupted in cheers and screams as row upon row of soldiers marched into the hangar.

Asked after the brief ceremony where his thoughts were at that moment, Sgt. Gregory Roby, with wife and daughter at his side, smiled and said, "It's not in Iraq. I'll tell you that."

E-mail Kevin Dougherty at: doughertyk@mail.estripes.oss.mil



Sgt. Gregory Roby, of Company A, 127th Aviation Support Battalion, gets reacquainted with wife Cara and 3-year-old daughter Kaitlyn at a welcome home ceremony in Hanau, Germany, early Saturday morning.

Stars and Stripes

Messages of Support



We all love you and are so proud of you here at home. Would love to hear from you. We pray for all of "our soldiers". Take pride and persevere. Love Mom



To All Troops: We are deeply grateful for your Unselfishness, Bravery and Courage!



May you all stay safe and our prayers are with you and your families. Thank you again. Sincerely, Brenda & Ashley Steinger (Katy, Tx)



Dear boys, every waking hour I wonder how you all are. How much I love and wish I was there to help or comfort you all somehow. This is little small town USA where I live and we are all supportive of you. You are in my heart. Love truly, Cindy Denning



God bless you guys and come home safe.



Johnny Lee, I don't know if you'll get this but I hope so. Just wanted to let you know that you're being prayed for and we all hope you come back home safely to Texas. We miss you so stay safe. Karrie Wagner



J. Sano, We are proud of you for serving God and Country. Your Mom and Dad miss you much. Take care of yourself and fellow Marines. J. Ahn from Tempe, AZ



Dear Military Person: We are so Proud of YOU and all that YOU are doing to keep the United States of America "Free" and "Safe." To us YOU are all heroes and we appreciate your sacrifices to be there. We love YOU. We pray this war will be over very soon so you can come back home to your friends and loved ones. God Bless and keep YOU safe and God Bless AMERICA!



The communications relay station built on Darmstadt, Germany, property is located near a Griesheim housing area. Some inhabitants are concerned that the station emits radiation, some are afraid it listens in on phone calls and reads e-mails.

PHOTOS BY PETER JAEGER
Stars and Stripes

Relay station causing fear in Griesheim

BY WARD SANDERSON

Stars and Stripes

GRIESHEIM, Germany — The woman backed up from the order window, warily, slowly, nearly backing into the cash register of her cigarette kiosk.

She didn't know anything about the rise of the orbs, she said. She had no opinion on them, either.

Then she offered the same advice given by the nodding old man nursing a bottled beer beside the sidewalk. "Talk to the police."

Griesheim is home to 25,000 people, a dozing main street of boarded shops and an annual festival in praise of the union. It also now sits next to Project ICE-box, a U.S. military communications station set to go online at full capability sometime next month.

The Improved Collection Equipment, with polished green globes like plump olives, has caused both paranoid murmurs and outright indignation since the announcement last year of their arrival.

They read our e-mail and tap our telephones, some residents say. The mayor wonders whether they spy on German industry. Young parents who feel they live too close to the orbs are selling their homes, fearing radiation and mutation.

Rita Capodiferno, a neighbor who belongs to a citizens' movement opposed to the orbs, worries her neighborhood will become a target of al-Qaida. The town hall has already logged 1,700 signatures opposing the project, and Capodiferno said her group has since gotten about 3,000 more.

Activists have distributed leaflets announcing "Big Brother is Watching You" and accusing the orbs of working for the "STASI of the free world," a reference to East Germany's notorious domestic spy net.

"We're afraid," said Capodiferno.

ro, a mother of four. "And we have no idea of what kind of radiation there is."

The relay has been operating since May with some temporary mobile components. Town officials say the military has told them the site would be fully operational with permanent equipment next month.

The U.S. military announced it would erect the relay last year as part of its move of intelligence assets from the Bad Aibling area in Bavaria.

But though the relay moved from Bavaria along with the Army's 66th Military Intelligence Group, that unit's deputy commander said the orbs aren't his. Instead, Lt. Col. Allan Coville directed calls to U.S. Navy Europe in London, which staffs the relay.

There, Lt. Cmdr. Terrence Dudley said the orbs pose no threat, despite their B-movie, lunar-outpost look.

"There's no radiation. It's not a radar facility," Dudley said. "We have said in the past we have complied with all the local [health] requirements."

However, as to what the relays do exactly, Dudley said he couldn't say.

"This is simply manned by the U.S. Navy; it's not a Navy facility," he said, without elaborating. "We don't want to speak for it."

Locals believe the relay supplies data to the National Security Agency, the intelligence brains specializing in encrypting American secrets and listening in on foreign chatter.

The NSA's headquarters at

Fort Meade, Md., would not comment.

"We have no information to provide," an NSA spokesman said. "This is a matter for the Navy."

Opponents accuse the NSA of snooping via Echelon, an automated network not acknowledged by the United States but purportedly run by it and Australia, Britain, Canada and New Zealand. The system allegedly scans not only e-mail and telephone conversations but even faxes, looking for flags and filtering them via artificial intelligence. If Echelon discovers a threat, the message or call in question is supposedly referred to a human.

The European Parliament has issued reports concluding that Echelon is real, and suggesting that it targets civilian and commercial traffic. The parliament even encouraged Europeans to encrypt their e-mails.

That sort of PR is the reason protesters frequently target the joint communications center at Menwith Hill, England, which Germans believe is sister to their new orbs.

Griesheim's mayor, Norbert Leber, doesn't believe the relay is radioactive. But he means to find out.

"We will make a test," Leber said with a smile, "without telling when it will be."

Leber wishes the military had asked him before selecting the rural airfield. Though the field borders homes and even a kindergarten in Griesheim, it technically lies within the limits of the neighboring city of Darmstadt. Leber said he never wanted to stop the relay, but preferred a more isolated spot in Griesheim, away from houses.

Leber wonders, though, whether the relay engages in industrial espionage.

"I think the instruments are so good," he said, "you can spy from

any position."

The NSA has previously denied it engages in commercial spying.

Whatever the case, residents complain that the military isn't telling them anything.

"They didn't say what they're for," Capodiferno said. "Why isn't it transparent?"

Several neighbors have sold their homes, she said. Now she wants to sell hers.

Capodiferno also complained that the relay is about 200 yards from a kindergarten.

"It's ridiculous," she said.

Inside the Kindergarten Spielwiese — literally "Play Meadow" — there were giggly kids and a shaggy rocking horse, but no tots with tin foil hats.

"No, we have no problem," said a woman in charge who wouldn't give her name. "It's all nonsense."

A woman married to a U.S. soldier staying in nearby military housing said she hadn't even heard of the hubbub.

"Nobody came here to ask questions or anything," said Aylin Minter, 24, while a little girl splashed in a wading pool behind her. "If it's really dangerous, we'll find out. That's what I say."

One of her German neighbors remains skeptical.

"Somebody makes a profit from them," said a white-haired woman named Renate, spectated atop a bicycle with baskets fore and aft. "The mayor said there's no danger for health problems, but what does he know? ... It's horrifying. They look so big."

The owner of a nearby shoe box of a greasy spoon, slot ma-

chines blinking and blooping in the background, was unfazed.

"Some people are very sensitive," Wolfgang Sauer said. "They're against an electric plug in the wall."

But one employee was worried about Griesheim's new notoriety.

"I'm afraid of terrorism," Maria Bubic said. "And [the relay] is very powerful. There's only another one in England."

Despite the Orwellian angst, Capodiferno said she's not against the Americans. She has fond memories of visiting a U.S. base as a young girl, gasping at fireworks on the Fourth of July. She said her anti-globes group even kicked out an anti-American activist.

She nonetheless wants the ICE to melt away, though she thinks those orbs have landed for good.

"In the beginning, there was a great concern, but now there's resignation," Capodiferno said. "You can't do anything about it."

E-mail reporter Ward Sanderson at sandersonw@mail.strips.ost.mil



Leber



Sauer

Messages of Support

To all those protecting the United States of America! This Hershey, PA Family just wants to say thank you for all that you do. We appreciate your sacrifices and pray for your safe keeping until you come home. We also appreciate the sacrifices of your families. You are all heroes to us! Stay strong for you are doing a job that needs to be done and may God bless you and keep you safe.

Engine fire caused fatal Sigonella crash

Helicopter crashed in July 2003, killing 4

BY KENDRA HELMER

Stars and Stripes

An engine fire is to blame for last July's fatal helicopter crash in Sigonella, Sicily, according to an investigation report received last week by Stars and Stripes.

The MH-53E's No. 2 engine caught fire after it stalled due to foreign-object damage, according to the judge advocate general final investigation report. Commander, Naval Air Force U.S. Atlantic Fleet released the report, completed last month, to Stars and Stripes.

No one survived the July 16, 2003, crash.

The Heavy Helicopter Combat Support Squadron Four crew included the squadron's executive officer, Cmdr. Kevin A. Bianchi, 40, from Maplewood, N.J.; Lt. Peter Ober, 27, a pilot from Jacksonville, Fla.; Petty Officer 1st Class Brian P. Gibson, 33, an aviation structural mechanic from Greenwood, Va.; and Petty Officer 3rd Class Samuel Cox, 21, an aviation electrician's mate from Duluth, Minn.

Ober, the pilot, had 664 flight hours and was described in the report as an "above average and competent aviator." The report states Bianchi, the co-pilot with

2,630 flight hours, was a "highly respected and competent aviator."

Detailed are the final radio transmissions of the crew, who were on a routine training mission on a clear day:

Bianchi: "GCA [ground control approach]."

Ober: "Alright, coming down fast."

Bianchi: "We are declaring an emergency at this time."

The final transmission came 10 seconds later, at about 5 p.m. It isn't clear who was speaking. "We are on fire, a main transmission, we're landing on a field 10 miles on the 280."

According to the report, when the emergency was declared, the Sea Dragon's altitude was about 2,900 feet. It started descending but appeared to level off at 1,900 feet for six to 12 seconds, then continued to descend.

Witnesses reported seeing it fly at low altitude and slow airspeed in a controlled flight before it landed hard and fast on a pond that started about 10 miles west-southwest of Naval Air Station Sigonella.

Ober and Bianchi died of blunt-force injuries, burns and smoke inhalation.

Gibson and Cox died of



KENDRA HELMER/Stars and Stripes

MH-53E Sea Dragons from Heavy Helicopter Combat Support Squadron 4 rest on the flight line at Sigonella, Sicily, last year. A report was released recently on the cause of the July 2003 crash of one of the Sigonella helicopters.

blunt-force injuries.

The investigation found that the crash was caused by a fire that started after the No. 2 engine stalled because of damage from an An3 bolt.

The report noted that No. 2 engines have a history of fire following in-flight stalls or engine shutdowns.

Other factors in the crash were strong winds and coordination between the cockpit and aircrew.

The report states that while the men died not due to their own misconduct, "The actions of the aircrew following the in-flight emergency

may have contributed

to the tragic outcome. ..."

According to the report, the pilots passed up several suitable landing sights instead of landing immediately according to procedure. The report also said the crew failed to increase power to arrest the 99-foot-long copter's descent prior to impact.

The one-year anniversary of the crash recently was recognized by the squadron with a service of remembrance, said Cmdr. Greg Adair, squadron commander.

"I kind of like to think we honor their memories by continuing on and taking care of our mission," he said in a telephone interview from Sicily.

Rita Barrie, Bianchi's wife, said she appreciated the Navy and community support she and

their three young children received after his death.

Barrie said she wants to encourage military families to financially prepare for tragedies.

"Always be prepared for what you think never may will happen," she said in a telephone interview from Gladwyne, Pa. "It's a horrible thing to think about, but if you want to have your family taken care of, you really need to protect yourself beyond what the government is going to give you. ... It's not enough to keep you financially stable for a lifetime."

She said she especially thought it would never happen to her because her husband had lost his brother in a helicopter crash.

"Obviously, it can happen to anyone," she said.

E-mail Kendra Helmer at: helmerk@ml.eastripes.osd.mil



Ober



Gibson



Cox



Bianchi

Pentagon releases Bush's '72 Guard payroll records

BY MATT KELLEY

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Newly discovered payroll records from President Bush's 1972 service in the Alabama National Guard shed no new light on the future president's activities during that summer.

A Pentagon official said Friday the earlier contention that the records were destroyed was an "inadvertent oversight."

Like records disclosed earlier by the White House, the newly released computerized payroll records show no indication Bush drilled with the Alabama unit during July, August and September of 1972. Pay records covering all of 1972, released previously, also indicated no guard service for Bush during those three months.

The records do not give any new information about Bush's National Guard training during 1972, when he transferred to the Alabama National Guard unit so

he could work on the U.S. Senate campaign of a family friend. The payroll records do not say definitively whether Bush attended training that summer because they are maintained separately from attendance records.

White House spokesman Trent Duffy said Bush kept his service commitments, pointing to the fact that Bush was honorably discharged in 1973. The White House says Bush attended enough training during other months in 1972 to fulfill his service commitment for that year.

The release came days before Democrats began their national convention in Boston to officially nominate Sen. John Kerry as their presidential candidate. Military veterans are being tapped at the convention to help tell Kerry's story as he prepares to accept the party's nomination next week.

A spokesman for the Democratic National Committee, Jano Cabrera, called the discovery Friday of Bush's records "highly questionable."

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IN THE WORLD

Militants torch, trash Palestinian police station

BY MOHAMMED DARAGHMEH

The Associated Press

RAMALLAH, West Bank — Militants raided a Palestinian police station and a local government office on Saturday, as unrest in the Gaza Strip went into a second week despite efforts by Yasser Arafat to defuse mounting discontent with his grip on power.

Arafat, in his first public appearance since the outbreak of demonstrations against his regime, denied he is facing a crisis and renewed his pledge to give more authority to his prime minister.

But the continuing violence in Gaza signaled skepticism over Arafat's promises of reform, and there was no indication that his standoff with Prime Minister Ahmed Qureia and the Palestinian Cabinet was lessening.

"No, no, there is no crisis," said Arafat, facing a bank of microphones after meeting Arab diplomats in his headquarters.

Arafat has refused to accept the resignation of Qureia, who complained that he lacked the tools to deal with the unrest or the



Palestinian residents and police inspect the burned police station in the southern Gaza Strip town of Zwaidda, Israel, on Saturday. Officials said unidentified militants broke into the empty station in the dark hours of the morning, pouring gasoline on mattresses and blankets and setting the building on fire, in an apparent protest against Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's lack of reform of the security services.

corruption that is rife in the Palestinian Authority.

In Gaza on Saturday, militants torched an empty Palestinian police station south of Gaza City before dawn in the town of Zwaidda, about 4 miles south of Gaza City, pouring gasoline on mattresses and blankets and setting the building alight.

The fire also damaged the town council on an upper story of the

building, which had recently been renovated with donations from the Danish government.

No one was injured, officials said, but police files, computers and communications equipment were destroyed. No group immediately claimed responsibility.

Ahmed Abu Zaid, the mayor of the town, said the purpose of the raid appeared to be to "spread lawlessness and terror among the people."

NATO orders more peacekeeping forces for Afghan elections

BY PAUL GEITNER

The Associated Press

BRUSSELS, Belgium — After months of delay, NATO has ordered hundreds more peacekeepers to Afghanistan to help provide security during presidential elections, but the deployment still appeared to fall short of 3,500 troops that were promised.

NATO ambassadors meeting late Friday approved two more battalions for Afghanistan, one each from Italy and Spain. A battalion has between 600 and 1,000 soldiers.

The alliance also cleared another 500 or so troops to beef up provincial reconstruction teams. Assuming the battalions were sent, that would still make only 2,500 troops.

"We need a little bit more to get to 3,500," said Lt. Col. Lodger Terbruggen, spokesman at NATO's military headquarters in southern Belgium.

Cmdr. Chris Henderson, a

spokesman for the NATO-led peacekeeping force in the Afghan capital of Kabul, said a third battalion would be on standby as part of a Reserve contingent outside the country.

He said the alliance had yet to decide which countries would supply the reserve force but insisted "NATO has not failed in meeting its commitment."

U.S. Ambassador Nicholas Burns called the reinforcements "a significant step in the efforts of the international community to help the Afghan people."

NATO took command of the international peacekeeping force in Afghanistan last summer. It currently has some 6,500 troops there, about half from Germany and Canada.

The troops from Italy and Spain will arrive in Afghanistan by September and remain for about two months, NATO Secretary-General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer said in a statement. The election is planned for Oct. 9.

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Security shield offers defense for Olympics

BY DEREK GATOPOULOS

The Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — Months behind schedule and millions over budget, Athens is finally ready to spy on the Olympics.

A vast network of street cameras, surveillance vans, underwater sensors and a blimp bristling with ultra-sensitive monitors was declared operational Friday — three weeks before the games begin and a day after the Olympic Village opened.

The \$312 million surveillance system was supposed to be ready May 28, but there were delays in installation, blamed on construction setbacks at Olympic venues, including the main stadium.

Overall security for the Aug. 13-29 games is costing three times more than planned. Greece initially was to spend \$600 million on security, but that has soared to a record \$1.5 billion operation to thwart a possible terrorist attack.

Athens also has been getting security help from the United States, Britain, Israel and other countries, and NATO will send air and sea patrols and experts in biochemical weapons.

Alliance officials confirmed this week that Greece is seeking

additional counterterrorism assistance — a request likely to receive summary approval — including 400 elite troops from the United States.

"Greece is ready," Premier Costas Karamanlis said Friday. "Greece will host ... absolutely successful games in conditions of supreme safety."

That's quite a promise for the first summer Olympics after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks. Earlier this year, fears of attacks in Europe increased dramatically after terrorist bombings in Madrid and Istanbul, Turkey.

Greece also is close to many of the world's hot spots — including the Balkans and the Middle East, and is troubled by local anarchists and other radical groups.

"We have considered every possible scenario," Public Order Minister Giorgos Voulgarakis said.

The security shield was developed by Pentagon contractor Science Applications International Corp. Companies in the consortium include Germany's Siemens AG; General Dynamics of Falls Church, Va.; New Jersey-based Honeywell International; and the Israeli company Elbit Systems.

Several Greek companies also are participating.



A police officer stands in front of a U.S.-Swiss airship at an old airfield in Athens on Thursday. The airship, fitted with cameras and sensors, will help provide security at the Olympics.

It encompasses everything from iris scanners that check the identities of airport employees to large X-ray machines capable of looking through entire trucks. There are microphones listening for underwater swimmers in ports, and cameras that can recognize the sound of a gunshot and automatically zoom in on it.

Fed into a security command center, images and audio will stream from more than 1,000 cameras in venues and main streets, police helicopters, spy planes and on an airship that began floating over Athens on Friday.

The blimp also is fitted with chemical "sniffers" and other sensitive sensors. It will help authorities communicate with

70,000 police and troops on the streets.

Added to the surveillance system will be an extensive array of physical barriers, including double perimeter fences around key venues and concrete barriers for car bomb attacks. NATO AWACS surveillance plans will help maintain a no-fly zone over Athens, while Patriot missiles may be called on to shoot down rogue planes.

The Olympic Village, which opens July 30, will have police checkpoints up to two miles from the entrance, 24-hour patrols, motion sensors and the truck-scanning X-ray. The security system will be partially tested Sunday during a police exercise to manage traffic between the city's main Olympic venues.

IRA founder dead at 84

The Associated Press

DUBLIN, Ireland — Joe Cahill, a founding father of the modern Irish Republican Army who once narrowly avoided the hangman's noose, has died, the IRA-linked Sinn Féin party announced Saturday. He was 84.

Cahill died Friday in his Belfast home after suffering for years from asbestosis, a lung-ravaging condition he acquired while working in Belfast's Harland & Wolff shipyards in the 1950s.

Cahill was the first Belfast commander of the modern "Provisional" wing of the IRA founded in December 1969, the year that Northern Ireland descended into decades of civil unrest.

He also was the principal mentor of Sinn Féin leader Gerry Adams, who, as an IRA member, served under Cahill's direct command in the early 1970s, when the IRA began killing British soldiers and police and bombing towns and cities in Northern Ireland and England.

"Joe Cahill spent a lifetime in struggle. He was both a leader and a servant of the republican cause," Adams said Saturday.

Sinn Féin said Cahill would be buried Tuesday in Milltown Cemetery in west Belfast, the final resting place for scores of IRA members, after services at St. Paul's Catholic Church.

He is survived by his wife, Annie, and seven children.

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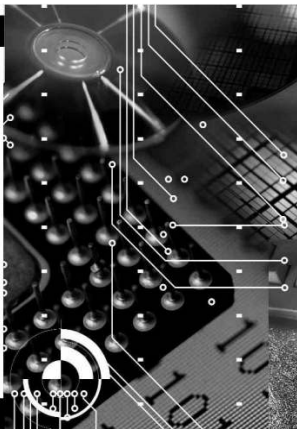


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German police raid Islamic areas seeking terror clues

The Associated Press

STUTTGART, Germany — Police raided mosques and Muslim community centers in two southern German states Friday in what authorities said was an attempt to learn more about extremist networks.

Some 400 police officers searched 18 buildings in Baden-Wuerttemberg, checking occupants' papers as part of attempts to track Islamic extremists, the state Interior Ministry said in a statement.

"The goal is to continue an intensive fight against criminal Islamists and to uncover the networked structures of Islamic extremists and terrorists," the statement said.

Authorities announced no arrests.

In parallel raids in neighboring Rhineland-Palatinate, some 230 police officers questioned 235 people and searched 102 vehicles.

Five people were taken into custody on suspicion of being in Germany illegally.

With the background of the recent attacks in Madrid and Iraq, security authorities believe there is a high potential of Islamist and extremist offenders also in Germany," state police said in a statement.

The raids are the latest in a series by German police. Most recently, police in Cologne on July 15 searched an Islamic cultural center and mosque after receiving a tip that it was being used to form a radical Islamic network.

No arrests were made and police said there was "no hint that attacks were being planned."

Pantheon on for sale: Rome's landmarks are now prestigious advertising space

BY LIZ SLY
Chicago Tribune

ROME — There's a lovely 16th century church at the top of the Spanish Steps — Rome's premier gathering spot for tourists — but if you're visiting Rome this summer, you won't be able to see it.

That's because it's been draped in a giant advertisement for L'Oréal beauty products, the latest in a series of controversial ads to obscure the ancient city's monuments.

There's also a big bottle of shampoo covering up one end of the 15th century Campo di Fiori, an outsized Vespa scooter zooming across a facade behind the Piazza Navona, and the Piazza di Spagna is dominated by a banner promoting coffee.

Soon, Rome's beloved Pantheon, the former pagan temple that has survived through the ages in the heart of the city, will become the first Roman antiquity to be covered with ads.

Cellular phone companies have expressed great interest in the prestigious advertising space, according to Interpromos, the agency that has signed a six-figure deal to promote the marketing merits of the 2,000-year-old domed structure.

Advocates of the ads say it's all for a good cause. Billboards have become an important common sight on Rome's monuments since a 1997 law authorizing the sale of advertising on scaffolding to cover the costs of restoration work to the city's cultural heritage.

But when a 2,000-square-foot lipstick ad featuring a huge pair of red lips appeared in May across the facade of the 15th century Santa Maria della Vittoria, whose position at the top of the Spanish Steps gives it a commanding view of the city, there was an outcry.

"It's clearly an abuse, a terrible abuse, which damages not only the beauty of the city but the visitors who come here to admire our ancient monuments," said Adriano La Regina, the superintendent of archaeology for Rome and one of the most outspoken opponents of the policy.



Chicago Tribune

An advertisement for an internet company adorns a 1938 obelisk erected during the rule of Benito Mussolini in Rome, Italy.

The city has decreed that the ads must be "compatible" with their environment and the L'Oréal banner has been toned down. But the furor has stirred a debate about the advertising.

Another building long obscured from public view is the 7th century San Silvestrino Church, an English-language church in Rome, owned by the Interior Ministry. The church's facade was crumbling, and Father Dennis O'Brien, San Silvestrino's Irish rector, said he was not averse in principle to the idea of using advertising to pay for the work.

The scaffolding has been up for more than a year, and the work is nowhere near completion, he said. In the meantime, ads for the Tunisian tourist board and a perfume retailer are among those that have been hung on the church.

"It's been a very negative experience, and I don't know when it's going to end," O'Brien said.

Examples such as these are fueling suspicions that even the owners of buildings that do need restoring are exploiting the law to make money. Proponents of the policy acknowledge there have been abuses, but say there is simply no choice if Rome is to maintain all its many ancient treasures.

The Pantheon project will raise \$890,000 to cover the cost, and the content of the advertising will be tightly controlled, said Vanna Mannucci, vice president of Italia Nostra, an environmental agency that is working to link up advertisers with restoration projects.

La Regina is not convinced. "The Pantheon doesn't need restoring, and if there is work that needs to be done, it will only take a few days," he said. "It would be a correct policy if the real purpose was restoration, but I'm not sure that it is."



AP

Professor Stephen Hawking makes a startling announcement about black hole theory at the International Conference on General Relativity and Gravitation on Wednesday in Ballsbridge, Dublin.

Hawking flip-flops on black hole theory

BY SHAWN POGATCHNIK
The Associated Press

DUBLIN, Ireland — After 29 years of thinking about it, Stephen Hawking says he was wrong about black holes.

The renowned Cambridge University physicist presented a paper Wednesday arguing that black holes, the celestial vortexes formed from collapsed stars, preserve traces of objects swallowed up and eventually could spit bits out "in a mangled form." Last week, in an interview with the BBC, he revealed he had changed his long-held thinking on black holes.

Hawking's radical new theory caps his three-decade struggle to explain a paradox in scientific thinking: How can objects re-

"disappear" inside a black hole and leave no trace, as he long believed, when subatomic theory says matter can be transformed but never fully destroyed? Hawking had previously insisted that black holes destroy all molecular fingerprints of their contents and emit only a generic form of radiation.

But on Wednesday, at the 17th International Conference on General Relativity and Gravitation, Hawking presented mind-boggling new calculations that suggest black holes are able to cast out their contents — and that there's only one way in and one way out.

Wednesday, 62, said he no longer believes a 1980s theory that black holes might offer passage into another universe, a rival explanation for identifying where matter and energy go when consumed by a black hole.

Hawking now sides with particle physicists who have long insisted that any matter swallowed by a black hole can't just disappear but must eventually generate a specific output. The latest theory offers hope that scientists one day may identify the

history of what a black hole has taken in over the eons — by decoding what it emits.

"There is no baby universe branching off [inside a black hole], as I once thought. The information remains firmly in our universe," Hawking said in a speech to about 800 physicists and other scientists from 50 countries. "I'm sorry to disappoint science fiction fans, but if information is preserved, there is no possibility of using black holes to travel to other universes."

"If you jump into a black hole, your mass energy will be returned to our universe, but in a mangled form, which contains the information about what you were like, but in an unrecognizable state."

Hawking's new theory produced waves of skepticism and puzzlement from leading physics professors. Two in the front row — William Unruh of the University of British Columbia and Robert Wald of the University of Chicago — shrugged and shook their heads in disbelief at Hawking.

"Part of the problem is he's providing so few details, so it's impossible to know whether we can believe these calculations," Unruh said. "Stephen Hawking's not stupid, so we're going to take what he says seriously ... but the whole theory we're hearing seems extremely speculative."

Not long ago, Hawking was just as certain that black holes destroyed whatever they took in. In 1997, he and Caltech physics professor Kip Thorne made a bet with particle physicist John Preskill that "information swallowed by a black hole is forever hidden from the outside universe and can never be revealed ..."

On Wednesday, Hawking ended his lecture by saying he had proved that Preskill was right, and gave Preskill an encyclopedia on baseball as his reward.

Stephen Hawking said he no longer believes a theory that black holes might offer passage into another universe.

IN THE STATES

Bush to heed 9/11 panel's recommendations

BY PETE YOST

The Associated Press

CRAWFORD, Texas — Without promising what specific steps he will take, President Bush is committing his administration to relying on the recommendations of the Sept. 11 commission in waging the war on terrorism.

"The danger to America has not passed," Bush said Saturday in his weekly radio address, citing the cautionary note sounded this week by the commission chairman, Thomas Kean.

The commission's unanimous report, the culmination of a 20-month investigation, por-

But some officials oppose intelligence czar

trayed the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorists as creative and determined while the nation they were preparing to strike was unprepared and uncomprehending of the imminent danger.

Legislation that would carry out two of the report's recommendations will be the focus of an unusual round of hearings in August while Congress is in recess.

"The 9/11 commission's recommendations will help guide our efforts," said the president. "We will carefully examine all the

commission's ideas on how we can improve our ongoing efforts to protect America and to prevent another attack."

Kean, a Republican, has left no doubt what he thinks should be done, saying that unless the panel's recommendations are implemented swiftly, "We're more vulnerable to another terrorist attack. We're in danger of just letting things slide. Time is not on our side."

Bush has not said how quickly the administration will act. Two

important administration officials, Homeland Security chief Tom Ridge and acting CIA director John McLaughlin, oppose a Cabinet-level oversight of the intelligence apparatus, saying improving the current structure is what is needed.

White House chief of staff Andrew Card will undertake a Cabinet-level review of the proposals, which will be examined at all levels of government.

Bush insists all recommendations be taken, while detailing the steps already taken.

See related stories
on Page 14

He pointed to the dismantling of terrorist cells from California to Florida the removal of regimes in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"We have waged a steady, relentless, determined war," said the president.

Bush said his administration has provided \$13 billion to equip and train more than half a million first responders in cities across the country.

Agencies load weapons with 'green ammo'

BY RUSS BYNUM

The Associated Press

BRUNSWICK, Ga. — Officers aim their submachine guns at small steel targets and fire short bursts of bullets that, on impact, disintegrate into copper-colored dust.

So-called "green ammo" — bullets made of iron, copper and other metals less toxic than lead — has become the norm at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, essentially the nation's largest police academy.

Responsible for training the employees of 76 federal agencies, from the Secret Service to the U.S. Park Service police, the center has virtually created a market for unleaded ammunition that officials say poses fewer health and environmental risks.

"This is one of the most significant advances in police training I've seen in my 20-plus-year career," said Mark Fritts, a senior firearms instructor at the center.



A pile of copper and zinc dust is what remains of 10 rounds of 40 caliber unleaded ammunition at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in Glynco, Ga.

Made from compressed metal particles, the ammo was introduced at the center six years ago and now makes up 75 percent of the 20 million rounds fired annually at the center's campuses in Brunswick; Artesia, N.M.; Charleston, S.C.; and Cheltenham, Md. The center, the nation's largest user of ammunition outside the military, started asking manufacturers in 1994 to develop bullets with no risk of injury to ca-

dets from metal fragments when fired at close range.

When manufacturers began designing the bullets without lead, the environmental benefits became apparent. The center estimates its switch to unleaded ammo has eliminated some 70,000 pounds of lead waste. Since 1994, the military has been phasing in its own version of a "green bullet" made of a tungsten composite that's suitable for combat.

Calif. firefighters mull closing national forests

BY JOHN ROGERS

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Even as firefighters contained major wildfires in southern California, authorities contemplated drastic steps to prevent more in what could be another disastrous fire season.

Angeles National Forest supervisor Jody Noiron said Friday that the onslaught of blazes was unprecedented this early in the fire season.

In the past week, wildfires destroyed more than 48,000 acres of dry brush and trees. A handful of homes and other structures were lost and thousands of residents were evacuated.

If the hot, dry weather conditions continue, forest officials "may be faced with some very tough decisions" to restrict use of national forests or close them, Noiron said.

Stanton Florea, a spokesman for the national forest, said the closures are only one of many measures being eyed by fire officials.

"It's being discussed. There are many other levels of fire restrictions that we'd go to prior to that," he said.

Those measures could include restricting campfires and stoves and closing at-risk areas, he said.

With southern California in the fifth year of a drought and temperatures in the fire areas consistently reaching the high 90s, firefighters said it seemed more like October — the height of fire season — than mid-July.

California saw its worst fire season ever last year, when a series of gigantic blazes burned across more than 750,000 acres, destroying 3,650 homes and killing 24 people.

Those firestorms all came in October — a time when brush and timber, deprived of rain throughout the region's dry summers, are most susceptible to fires driven by hot Santa Ana winds.

Citing extreme fire danger, authorities last year shut down the Cleveland and Angeles national forests and part of the San Bernardino National Forest for a time.

Stars and Stripes

Messages of Support

Way to go troops, don't know who will get this but you are doing a fantastic job. It is so wonderful to see the best of America doing what they do. You are awesome, and we thank you for all the you are doing. We have four family members in the service, but don't know where any of them are so I send this to all the troops, just wanted you to know that we love you all and are so proud of you. L. Minton, Oregon.

This is a message for my brother Ricky Joe Angel and for all of the other troops. We are very proud of what you are doing for our country; and we stand behind you 100%. You are in

my thoughts and prayers and we hope you all hurry home soon.

Tim Helton from South Carolina

Just wanted to say "Thank you" for your service, commitment and courage toward keeping our country safe from terror and freeing the Iraqi people from their evil dictator. All of you are truly our Heroes!! God will provide all you need! Bless You!

On behalf of my family and our country, thank you! John Novick from California

Greetings! We are praying for your protection daily. We claim no weapon formed against you will prosper. We send the angels to protect crew, carrier and equipment. We stand on our faith in God. We send our love to all on the USS Abraham especially our son Brandon. Thank you for the sacrifice you are making for our freedom and their relief from bondage and oppression. You are appreciated and prayed for always. From Florida the Christman/Bailie Family +G-Mom

Much thanks and appreciation for doing what needs to be done. With prayers for a speedy victory and safe return!



An FBI aerial photograph shows the crash site of hijacked United Airlines Flight 93 in Shanksville, Pa., on Sept. 12, 2001.

Sept. 11 panel documents scene onboard Flight 93

BY PETER SLEVIN

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The scene aboard the hijacked airliner played out like a radio drama as passengers tried to storm the cockpit. Amid sounds of shouting, screaming and breaking dishes, one hijacker called to a partner at the jet's controls, "Pull it down! Pull it down!"

The pilot turned the control wheel hard to the right, and the jet rolled onto its back. United Airlines Flight 93 headed down.

Forty-eight seconds later, at 10:03:11 a.m., as a hijacker shouted, "Allah is the greatest" over and over in Arabic, the plane crashed nose first into a Pennsylvania field, killing the hijackers and the passengers who defied them.

In a chilling account based on tape recordings, mechanical data, FBI documents and interviews, the Sept. 11 commission assembled the most complete account yet of events inside United Flight 93 and the other three jetliners that were hijacked on Sept. 11, 2001.

According to the commission's final report, issued Thursday, the Flight 93 struggle apparently took place at the closed door to the cockpit. Unarmed passengers tried in vain to fight their way inside as an increasingly frantic hijacker jerked the controls violently to throw them off balance.

Flight 93, carrying 37 passengers and a crew of seven, took off late from Newark for Los Angeles at 8:42 a.m.

In the cockpit, the pilots first

learned of the earlier hijackings at 9:24, when a United dispatcher named Ed Ballinger sent a text warning: "Beware any cockpit intrusion — two a/c hit World Trade Center."

Two minutes later, the hijackers attacked as the plane flew above eastern Ohio.

At 9:32, one of the hijackers announced: "Ladies and gentlemen. Here the captain. Please sit down. Keep remaining sitting. We have a bomb on board. So sit."

The pilot turned the jetliner around east. The cockpit voice recorder, drawing from microphones in the pilots' headsets and an overhead panel, recorded the last 31 minutes of the flight. Also, at least 10 passengers and two crewmembers who had been forced to the back of the aircraft made calls on the plane's air phone system, learning of the World Trade Center attack.

"At 9:57 a.m.," the commission said, "the passenger assault began."

When the passengers charged, the hijackers' pilot, Ziad Samir Jarrah, rolled the airplane right and left, trying to knock the attackers off balance. At 9:58, he told an other hijacker to block the door.

At 10:01, Jarrah stopped the maneuvers and called out twice, "Allah is the greatest!" And at 10:03, the plane crashed.

"Jarrah's objective was to crash his airliner into the symbols of the American republic, the Capitol or the White House," the commission wrote. "He was defeated by the alerted, unarmed passengers of United 93."

Report details motivation, mindset of 9/11 planners

BY SUSAN SCHMIDT

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — If the mastermind of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks had known that Zacarias Moussoui, an al-Qaida operative now charged as a conspirator in the plot, had been arrested in August, he might have canceled the mission.

Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, the main strategist behind the attacks, did not find out until after Sept. 11 that Moussoui was jailed in Minnesota on immigration charges.

That revelation, from a U.S. interrogation of one of Mohammed's top deputies, Ramzi Binalshibh, is among many new details about the planning and execution of the attacks contained in the 567-page report of the commission investigating the attacks and the government's response, which was released Thursday.

Rich in specifics, the report draws on intelligence reports not previously made public, including information drawn from CIA interrogations of high-level al-Qaida operatives that reveal the motives and mind-set of the terrorists involved in the attacks, as well as others at the organization's highest levels.

The commission members believe Moussoui was to have been among the Sept. 11 hijackers, although Binalshibh has called him a poor candidate who was needed

only to fill out a shaky roster. Mohammed has told interrogators that Moussoui was going to be part of a second wave of attacks, the report said.

The commission report provides similar glimpses of other terrorists associated with the attacks, including Mohammed, who is referred to in the report as "KSM," and who promoted the idea of using the jetliners as missiles.

Mohammed originally conceived of crashing nine airliners while he would hijack a 10th himself, killing the male passengers and landing to give a speech "exhorting" repressive Arab governments and U.S. support for Israel.

"Beyond KSM's rationalizations about targeting the U.S. economy, this vision gives a better glimpse of its true ambitions. This is theater, a spectacle of destruction with KSM as the self-cast star — the superterrorist," the report said.

Abd al-Rahim al-Nashiri, who became head of al-Qaida operations on the Arabian peninsula, was "so extreme in his ferocity in waging jihad" that he would commit a terrorist act inside the holiest mosque in Mecca if he thought there were a need, according to interviews with captured terrorists, the report quoted. Nashiri, who worked closely to bin Laden, orchestrated the 2000 bombing of the USS Cole in Yemen.

Despite the attention bin Laden has received from U.S. officials,

the report found that not all those working with him have accepted his undivided devotion.

Nashiri was asked to swear loyalty to bin Laden but "found the notion distasteful and refused," the report said. He was not alone: Mohammed also refused, as did Hambali, the powerful leader of Southeast Asia's Jemaah Islamiyah terrorist network who accepted bin Laden's offer in 1998 to form an alliance "in waging war against Christians and Jews."

Mohammed and his nephew, Ramzi Yousef, began talking about plots to hijack U.S. airliners and crash them into buildings after the 1993 World Trade Center bombing — for which Yousef was later convicted.

The report reveals that the target bin Laden was most interested in hitting was the White House, even though hijack leader Mohammed Atta thought it was too difficult and preferred the Capitol.

At a meeting in Spain in July 2001, Binalshibh told Atta that bin Laden wanted the attacks "carried out as soon as possible because he was worried about having so many operatives in the United States." In early August, Atta communicated to Binalshibh that the attacks would be launched in the first week of September, when Congress reconvened.

Atta said he and Marwan al-Shehhi, another pilot hijacker, intended to use the World Trade Center, and crash them on the streets of New York if they could not hit the towers.

9/11 commission touches on Lewinsky scandal

WASHINGTON — The Sept. 11 commission's final report says there's no evidence suggesting former U.S. President Bill Clinton ordered airstrikes on Osama bin Laden targets to distract attention from his affair with Monica Lewinsky.

But the report says the affair, coupled with other issues, likely affected later discussions about using force against the terrorist leader.

Following U.S. embassy bombings in Kenya and Tanzania, the Clinton administration planned and launched cruise missile strikes on alleged terrorist assets of bin Laden in Sudan and Afghanistan.

The report said reaction to the Aug. 20, 1998, strikes included "scolding criticism" that the action was "too aggressive."

"At the time, President Clinton was embroiled in the Lewinsky scandal, which continued to consume public attention for the rest of that year and the first months of 1999," the report said.

In testimony, Clinton aides told the commissioners that their advice to Clinton about the airstrikes was based solely on national security considerations. "We have found no reason to question their statements," the commissioners said.

From The Associated Press

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'Jeopardy!' champ now goes on hiatus

BY DAVID BAUDER
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Will Ken Jennings ever lose? Not anytime soon. The "Jeopardy!" quiz master won his 38th straight game on Friday, shattering a one-day record by earning \$75,000. Now his fans — and foes — have to wait while the show goes on hiatus until September.

Jennings, the 30-year-old Utah software engineer, has earned \$1,321,660 during his nearly two-month stint. He's become an unlikely TV star, visiting Jay Leno on the "Tonight" show Thursday, and made geeks chic.

"Jeopardy!" goes into reruns starting Monday. But new shows will resume on Sept. 6, and Jennings will be there to defend his championship.

Three times, Jennings purposely tied the one-day record of \$52,000 with carefully calculated wagers on Final Jeopardy. On Friday, he approached the "Final Jeopardy" question having already earned \$31,400. Asked to name two of the four Shakespeare plays in which ghosts appear onstage, Jennings correctly answered "Hamlet" and "Richard III."

Then he revealed his bet: \$23,600. "Will it never end for this talented young man?" host Alex Trebek said. "We'll have to wait awhile to find out."

Jennings, who lives in Salt Lake City and is married with a 1-year-old son, is a Mormon who has already promised to tie the 10 percent of his winnings to his church.

"Jeopardy!" used to require its champions to leave after winning five times, but



"Jeopardy!" champion Ken Jennings talks with Jay Leno during "The Tonight Show With Jay Leno" on Thursday in Burbank, Calif.

last year changed its rules to allow players to continue until they are beaten. Jennings has beaten 76 challengers.

While "Jeopardy!" producers will have

to write Jennings a big check, that rules change has paid off: the game show's ratings have jumped by 50 percent during his reign.



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View-Master clicks to 65-year milestone

BY CAROLYN THOMPSON
The Associated Press

EAST AURORA, N.Y. — With the pump of a finger, the View-Master has given generations a 3-D look at everything from man's first moonwalk to the adventures of SpongeBob SquarePants.

The iconic toy occupies a place in the National Toy Hall of Fame, alongside Barbie and Mr. Potato Head, and has inspired many a Web site. This year, it achieves another mark of success: its 65th anniversary.

For the uninitiated, View-Master is the handheld gadget that resembles a squarish pair of plastic binoculars. It spins a circular reel a notch each time the user pushes down its arm to reveal new 3-D images, which are often sequenced to tell a story.

"People who grew up in the '70s think it's a '70s thing," collector Eddie Bowers said, "and people who grew up in the '50s think it's a '50s thing. It's their childhood."

Jim Silver, publisher of the Toy Book, an industry magazine, said parents' fond memories and an effort to keep the reel subjects current has fostered View-Master's success. "Parents love to buy things for their children that they had when they were young and that they loved," he said.

The public got its first good look at View-Master at the 1940 World's Fair in New York, a year after its creator, amateur stereo photographer William Gruber, introduced it in Portland, Ore. By 1941, more than 100,000 stores were carrying it.

The military adopted it during World War II for training reels, and the 1950s saw an abundance of reels of national parks and other scenic attractions, intended as souvenirs for adults. For kids,



David Berg, longtime View-Master photographer, poses with his 3-D camera setup that he uses to create images for the View-Master at Fisher-Price in East Aurora, N.Y. In the background is the original set that was used to make the "Casper the Friendly Ghost" View-Master reel pack.

View-Master obtained licensing to use Disney characters in 1951 and those and other movie and television favorites have been mainstays of the line ever since.

More than 1.5 billion reels have been issued since 1939.

Most appealing to collectors is that any one of those white paper reels, with their 14 thumbnail film images, will work in any View-Master viewer. The reels' size and shape have never changed.

For the 65th anniversary, Fisher-Price, who took over View-Master from Tyco Toys in 1997, has produced a box set with compilation reels from each decade. Viewers can click their way from a 1930s view of the Golden Gate Bridge through a shot of pop singer Brandy in concert.

Generous paycheck

CA SAN FRANCISCO — Don is giving up a life of crime, drugs and booze, and giving back to the community — the art community.

The former burglar, crack cocaine smoker, state prisoner and alcoholic has donated \$10,000 to the art gallery where he had paid-handled for the last few years.

The man — identified only as Don — inherited \$187,000 from his long-estranged mother who died a year ago. Executors of her estate tracked him down a month ago through his Social Security number and help from local social workers.

One of the first things Don did was show his gratitude to Blue Room Gallery owner Paul Mahder for treating him with respect.

"When I had a heart attack and wound up in the hospital a year ago, who was the only person to visit me? Paul. And when I needed a doorway to sleep in over the past couple years, who let me? Paul," Don said. "He treated me like a human being. That's something you don't forget."

Both men burst into tears when Don presented his check.

Big job, little man

ND GRAND FORKS — Seven-month-old Caleb Gowan had the best man at his uncle's wedding.

Jeremy Gowan was to be the best man at his brother's wedding, but when he was called to duty in earlier this month, the bride and groom had to find a stand-in.

Josh Gowan and his bride, Tami Osowski, decided Jeremy's son, Caleb, could do the job. An American flag waving on the front lawn was the only clue that something was missing at the Oslo, Minn., wedding.

Caleb, who can sit and is starting to crawl, was carried up the aisle and spent the ceremony in the arms of groomsmen Chris Gowan.

Extended sentence

PA ALLENTOWN — A 17-year-old Allentown boy who threw a chunk of ice off an overpass, killing a minivan passenger, will spend six more months in a secure juvenile facility, a judge ruled.

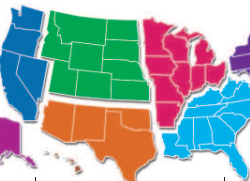
Dennis Gumbs will be recommitted to Alternative Rehabilitation Communities in Franklin County. Another hearing will be scheduled in six months to review his placement. Lehigh County Judge Lawrence J. Brenner ruled Wednesday.

Gumbs has been in the facility since August, when Brenner found Gumbs delinquent of third-degree murder and reckless endangerment.

Off the hook

TX BRYAN — A Bryan civic leader who left his 6-year-old daughter alone a high way in August has been acquitted of abandoning and endangering her with intent to return.

Roy Flores, 43, told authorities that his intentions were not to abandon his "fearless and determined" child, but to teach her a lesson after she tried to run away.



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

The decision to acquit him came after more than five hours of deliberation and a near mistrial when jurors sent out a note stating it was unlikely they would be able to reach a consensus, the Bryan-College Station Eagle reported.

Gas survey continues

UT SALT LAKE CITY — A federal judge refused Wednesday to halt a natural gas survey alongside an eastern Utah canyon that contains a wealth of ancient Indian ruins and rock art.

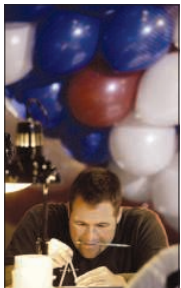
U.S. District Judge Emmet Sullivan threw out a lawsuit filed by The Wilderness Society and other groups and upheld the Bureau of Land Management's decision to let a Denver company look for an estimated 66 billion cubic feet of natural gas reserves.

While Sullivan was making his decision, Bill Barrett Corp. was able in late May to begin a seismic survey involving the use of blast holes and heavy "vibroreiss" trucks, which pound the earth looking for likely gas traps deep underground.

Explosive situation

PA ALLENTOWN — Police closed streets and evacuated homes, paralyzing rush hour traffic, when an employee discovered a case of dynamite at a salvage yard.

An employee at E. Schneider & Sons Inc. found three steel boxes



Finishing touches

Steve Bass, one of three set designers working on the Democratic National Convention, works on drawings of the convention stage near some balloons which will be lifted into the convention center's ceiling rafters.

with wooden linings that he believed might have contained explosives and called emergency services. One box contained dynamite.

The Allentown Fire Department's bomb squad doused at least 60 sticks of dynamite with diesel fuel to neutralize them, then burned them on the site, sending a cloud of thick black smoke above the scrap yard.

Not related

WI MADISON — The City Council narrowly rejected a plan to make Madison the sister city of Rafah, a violence-wracked Palestinian city, after a marathon session that ran into the early morning Wednesday.

The nonpartisan council in this predominantly liberal university town voted 9-8 for the plan, but that fell short of the 11 votes needed to pass.

More than 100 speakers testified, with some saying the proposal was a political slap at Israel and others calling it an important step to help Rafah's residents. The city, on the southern edge of the Gaza Strip, has been the scene of frequent violent conflict with Israel.

Offered double duty

PA ALTAMONT — A man who's worked as a part-time police officer for different municipalities now has been hired as a full-time officer — by two departments.

Frackville Borough hired Livergood as a full-time officer at a special meeting Tuesday. Then that night he was hired as a full-time officer by West Mahanoy Township.

The Frackville job would pay a starting salary of about \$25,000 a year, Police Chief John M. Morgan Jr. said. The West Mahanoy job would pay about \$23,920 a year.

Back in politics

WA SEATTLE — Judith Billings, who resigned as Washington state school superintendent in 1986 after learning that she had become infected with the AIDS virus from artificial insemination, announced Wednesday that she is running to get her old job back.

She said her HIV infection will not prevent her from campaigning, and her doctor approves.

Man on the run

NY SYRACUSE — A 36-year-old man led police on a brief car chase, driving on sidewalks, through parking lots and even against traffic on a busy boulevard, so he wouldn't get caught with stolen library books.

"The officers were a little taken back when they found out what the deal was. They couldn't believe it," said Syracuse police spokesman Sgt. Tom Connellan, who added police broke off pursuit because the situation Sunday became too dangerous.

There were no injuries, and — even more amazingly, Connellan said — no property damage.

Byron Haynes of Syracuse was to be arraigned Monday in Syracuse City Court on misdemeanor charges of reckless endangerment, petit larceny and reckless driving, as well as numerous traffic infractions.



The price is right

Sales clerk Brenda Elder of Gainesboro, Va., uses a price gun to attach orange price stickers to Jesus statues for sale at Nalls Farm Market in Berryville, Va.



The hard way

Anthony Osisek and his son, Mitchell Rowe, 8, push a couch across a street in Kokomo, Ind. Two of Osisek's other children, Tiffany Brodowski, 3, and Wayne Rowe, 2, are sitting on the couch.



Lounging

Jackson Jones, flight mechanic for Democratic presidential candidate Sen. John Kerry's campaign plane, reclines in the front of a jet engine as he waits for Kerry to arrive to depart from Nantucket, Mass.



Off the deep end

Bradley Boling, 14, of Bowling Green, Ky., dives off the 3-meter board at Southland Family Club.



Waning light

A bird perched high in a tree watches the sun set in Williamsville, N.Y.



Splashing around

A young swimmer splashes in a waterfall to cool off at the pool at Carl Levin Park in Harker Heights, Texas.



Swimming in seafood

Tom Monahan, right, and Ed Williams enjoy steamed crabs in a tent during the annual J. Millard Tawes Crab & Clam Bake in Crisfield, Md.

Roofman Robber loose

NC POLKTON — A one-time U.S. Army reservist from Concord, Calif., who gained infamy as the "Roofman Robber," dropping through the roofs of McDonald's restaurants around the country as smoothly as soft-serve landing in a cone, is again on the run after escaping from a North Carolina prison.

Jeffery Manchester, 32, is suspected of at least 40 robberies at McDonald's and other businesses from California to Virginia during a two-year spree that ended with his arrest in 2000. In each case, a masked gunman drilled through the roof and surprised employees before the fast-food place's opening or after its closing.

But Manchester has not been seen since escaping June 15 from Brown Creek Correctional Institution in Polkton, N.C., where he was serving a 45-year sentence for kidnapping and armed robbery for two McDonald's heists in that state.

Natural gas hike

NE ALLIANCE — Natural gas bills will increase \$2 beginning next month in 16 Nebraska towns.

Kinder Morgan Energy Partners announced Wednesday that it would be allowed to recover \$1.17 million in legal fees as part of a settlement in a long-running natural gas contract dispute.

Under terms of the agreement, the Houston-based company will be reimbursed for the \$590,000 it paid to replenish the Municipal Natural Gas Regulation Revolving Loan Fund. The fund provides state money to assist municipalities involved in rate cases.

Energizing jolt

WI MADISON — A Madison man who was struck by lightning this week says he feels "lighter and 100 years younger" than he did before Tuesday's accident.

"I'm feeling like my body is light. It's the best I've probably felt as far as energy in 10 years," said John Corson, 36, the day after he was struck by lightning while working outside his home.

Corson thought the afternoon thunder-and-lightning storm had passed his home, and had gone outside to work on a renovation project when the lightning hit him.

Corson, who has had three cardiac surgeries, spent eight hours at Redington-Fairview General Hospital after the accident while doctors tested his blood for any effect on his heart.

Victim jailed over shots

CA SAN FRANCISCO — A man who wrestled a burglar's gun away and shot him with it as he fled has been jailed on suspicion of assault with a deadly weapon.

Harvey Williams, 29, arrived home Tuesday to find the burglar at the door of his apartment. The men wrestled in a stairway before spilling out onto the sidewalk, where the gun fell to the ground, according to police.

"At that point, the burglar started running down the street," police spokesman Dewayne Tully said. "Mr. Williams picked up the gun and started firing at him, hit-

ting him."

The burglar was in critical but stable condition Wednesday with a gunshot wound to the back.

Bail jumper

TX FORT WORTH — For the second time, a woman awaiting sentencing on felony charges of abandoning her twin toddlers on a Lake Worth road last year has jumped bail.

And authorities say Christy Leann Radacy, 24, may have fled to Europe again.

A district court judge signed three felony arrest warrants after Radacy apparently cut off her court-ordered leg monitor Sunday. Radacy pleaded guilty this month to charges stemming from her 22-month-old girls being left on the road on May 26, 2003.

Fiery rescue

VA REMINGTON — Three people rescued a man from his burning car after it collided with another on U.S. 29 early Wednesday, state police said.

Christopher Cota III, 43, of Midland, was in the intensive care unit at Culpeper Regional Hospital, Trooper Ken Blank said.

Blank said Cota's car was going north in the southbound lanes of the highway about 1:30 a.m. and burst into flames after a head-on collision on a curve with an oncoming car. Cota will be charged with driving under the influence, Blank said.

Stuck in the mud

VA CROTON-ON-HUDSON — At least she got to see a couple of great blue herons.

Joan Indusi, a 52-year-old schoolteacher from Ossining, got stuck in a mudhole on the Hudson River shoreline for more than an hour Tuesday when she left a footpath in Croton Point Park in search of feathered friends.

"I never believed you could get stuck to the point where you literally could not move," she said Wednesday, "but I was up to my knees and I was trying to lift my leg up and I couldn't."

Luckily, she was carrying a cell phone along with her birding binoculars and was able to call police. She was unable to tell the officers exactly where she was, however, so they drove to the park and sounded a siren periodically. She would then tell them if they were getting closer or farther away.

Airport hijinx

GA ATLANTA — An airline passenger wearing only a pair of pajama bottoms stole a baggage tractor at the city's main airport and drove it onto an active runway, police said.

Atlanta police say Robert W. Buzzell, 31, had walked on an exit door that had an alarm at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport.

Flights were not affected by the incident, which took place before 6 a.m. Wednesday, airport officials said.

The man was stopped by mechanics, who asked him for an employee identification card. When he could not provide one, they escorted him to an office and called the police.

Photos and stories from The Associated Press

OPINION

What newspapers are saying at home

The following editorial excerpts are selected from a cross section of newspapers throughout the United States. The editorials are provided by The Associated Press and other statewide syndicates.

Acting all high and mighty
The Bellingham (Wash.) Herald

It's difficult to see what good could come from federal prosecution of an emaciated cancer patient who needs a pot brownie to keep her dinner down. It's equally difficult to see why the U.S. House of Representatives is seeking to limit states' rights by overriding laws that allow the use of medical marijuana.

A 268-148 House vote July 7 approved a measure to allow the federal government to continue prosecuting people who use medical marijuana where it is allowed by state law.

Washington state voters approved a citizen initiative allowing for the use of medical marijuana by more than a 2-to-1 margin percent in 1998.

Our system of government clearly allows federal laws to take precedence over state laws; however, this crusade led by Republicans, the party dedicated to limited government and states' rights, seems both hypocritical and out of step with the people's larger concerns.

Last year, the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco ruled that the federal law outlawing marijuana should not apply to people using it on a doctor's recommendation. The Bush administration appealed and the U.S. Supreme Court agreed [this month] to hear the case.

The high court refused to hear a case brought by the Justice Department that would have punished doctors who discussed with their patients the use of marijuana for medicinal purposes.

This is not out of a matter of states' rights, it's a matter of national priorities and personal freedom.

Work on better recordkeeping
TimesDaily, Florence, Ala.

Today's Hispanics, like the Europeans before them, are coming to America to improve their lots in life. Work is plentiful, though most of the jobs they fill are grueling. The majority of them make a good living compared to their counterparts back home.

One reason is because most don't pay income or property taxes.

Since they are undocumented aliens, state and federal governments have no records of them. Employers contribute significantly to the problem. Most know that an illegal immigrant will work for whatever wage the boss sets and complain.

It's unrealistic to think the influx of illegal immigrants can be stopped. Not only is it logistically and financially impractical, the political corporate parties who vote on the matter are factored into the scenario. Anyone who lives and works in this country has an obligation to pay their fair share of the cost.

That means paying taxes, which employers have an obligation to deduct from paychecks. Enforcing the tax codes is more feasible and practical than expecting any real reform in immigration laws soon. Enforcing tax codes would also go a long way toward easing the burden immigrants are placing on schools and hospitals.

FBI CIA director post now
The (Cleveland) Plain Dealer

Why, at this time of repeatedly pronounced peril, is the most important office in our national intelligence apparatus in the hands of an acting director? Former CIA Director George Tenet officially left the position on July 7.

The argument for waiting until after the election is primarily twofold: First, were President Bush to appoint a nominee now, the antagonistic political climate might result in congressional deadlock until after



The Dallas Morning News '04; Universal News Syndicate 7-1

November anyway; second, should Democratic nominee-presumptive John Kerry win, he has said he will reorganize the CIA and create a directorate of national intelligence that might absorb the current top spy job.

If the national security is as imperiled as a different ranking member of the Bush administration each week says it is, there is no excuse for delaying on political grounds.

And, should Kerry prevail, that situation can be addressed then.

Discrimination: Bad investment
The Post-Standard, Syracuse, N.Y.

If Morgan Stanley had taken seriously the sexual discrimination charges of a female employee, perhaps the Wall Street investment bank would not have ended up settling a lawsuit with the government [this month] and agreeing to a \$54 million check.

But the firm chose to ignore bond seller Allison Schieffelin's complaints that she had been passed over for promotions. She was eventually fired and filed a complaint with the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. The agency filed a suit on behalf of her and more than 300 other women at the firm. The company was accused of denying promotions, offering all-male outings with clients and allowing female employees to be subjected to groping and other improper behavior. Morgan Stanley decided to settle. Schieffelin was awarded \$12 million, with \$40 million set aside for other female employees and \$2 million for diversity programs.

One of the government's lawyers said the case should "send a message to employers everywhere that allegations of sexual discrimination should be taken seriously." In truth, that message should have been received long ago.

Pols push to get Latinos to polls
The Patriot-News, Harrisburg, Pa.

Everyone seems to be competing for the Latino community's attention these days.

In the last [month] alone, NBC champi-

oned its Spanish-language Telemundo channel as the "biggest thing we've got going," and both President Bush and Sen. John Kerry began airing translations of their ads on Spanish-language television and radio.

While many recognize the potential of the Hispanic-American market, it's a lot trickier to ensure that you actually appeal to its members. Since NBC acquired Telemundo in 2001, it has been chasing the success of Univision, which controls 75 percent of the Spanish-language programming market. ... This fall, Telemundo will change its approach and launch its own telenovelas that are written specifically about the Hispanic-American experience.

On the political front, Bush and Kerry need to adopt the new Telemundo mentality and create pieces specifically for Latinos. ... The campaigns would be wiser to create ads encouraging Latinos to vote and telling them where to vote and how their voice is integral in American politics. The hard truth is that Latinos have not been going to the polls. ...

Some in the Latino political campaign politicians do not speak their language or reach out to their communities. But herein lies a Catch-22: [I]n order to get politicians' notice, their community has to go to the polls.

For the Latinos, it comes down to an army of one — each Latino voter making the effort to get to the polls on Nov. 2.

Asking for more admissions
The Times-Picayune, New Orleans

The idea that one's final semester in high school is irrelevant to college admissions committees is as pervasive as the idea that a college student is guaranteed all A's if a roommate commits suicide. And it is equally false.

Admissions officials at the nation's selective colleges say they do pay attention to what a student does after the application process is over. Unfortunately, some talented high school students are finding that out the hard way.

During the summer thousands of the nation's prospective college freshmen get letters from admissions officials asking them to explain why their grades plummeted dur-

ing their final semester. An admissions dean at Texas Christian University calls them "Fear of God" letters. Some students are asked to explain in detail why their grades dropped. Others are informed that their "admission to TCU is in jeopardy."

[F]ar too many students believe that the grade they get in a course is more important than the knowledge that's acquired. Still, one wishes that students who've compiled seven semesters of excellent grades would have enough pride and intellectual curiosity to keep doing well, even after they've won admission to their favorite colleges.

Explain progress against AIDS
The Seattle Times

Billions of dollars have been spent and billions more promised in the worldwide battle against HIV. It is critical to find out which investments are making the most difference and which are being foolishly wasted.

Waste and inefficiencies were on the agenda at the 15th International AIDS Conference in Thailand but the conversation largely centered around a single issue — duplication of donor efforts — and pointed to little in the way of corrective measures. Too bad. Numerous countries have escalated spending, including our own five-year, \$15 billion strategy. The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, calling on other donors to increase their financial commitment, has added \$50 million to the \$100 million it has given to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

What's needed now is a strong evaluation process. A popular but shortsighted view is that since people with HIV are living longer and others have been prevented from getting the disease, something is going right. Yes, but what? It is important to know the value of the resources being spent on this pandemic. It is not heartless to request that we not simply do some good in the battle against the spread of HIV, but that we do the best good our money can buy.

A framework is needed. At best, it should offer a uniform way of analyzing the strings of successes and failures and coming up with inferences that best help us understand health benefits versus costs.



Sunday Horoscope

Mercury entering Virgo territory is like an all-hearing tape recorder that keeps track of our words. Everything you say has weight, even if it's just a passing comment. Meditate his best to bring us what we want in the time frame we want it, but we've got to do our part to communicate these desires consistently and clearly.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY
(July 25). Your creativity carries you to new ways of living this year. August features a home purchase or sale.

September is a stellar time for your career. You'll finally feel you're getting somewhere. Investments in October will bring dividends for years to come. Couples expand their families next June. Libra and Taurus are inspired partners.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Make an extra effort to reach out. Do research, and catch up on your reading. You feel better in social situations when you are involved in current events. Something that was overlooked last week is given a sharper observation.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Partners change your plans. Flow with it.

Loved ones grant your requests because you're so easygoing with them.

More adventures will spring from your flexible attitude this afternoon. Tonight features success with the opposite sex.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You are bright and enthusiastic, so team up with people who appreciate these qualities. Ask others if there is anything you need to know to make your ride smoother. The answers are close at hand.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You'll prefer the company of a few trusted companions instead of the excitement of a crowd, but no matter with whom or how many you do it, do get out and get social. Your words could change someone's life tonight.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You're so busy and active that there's no time to think about what bothered you so much just yesterday. Write out your worries as they come. Do take time today to relax tonight, or

you'll get the week off to a slow start.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You're smarter than some people seem to realize — this is because your modesty has kept them in the dark.

Speak up, or better yet, when friends brag about you, don't stop them! Just say, "Thank you." Aries is your cheerleader.

Joyce Jillion



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Solid decision making is a challenge, but once you conquer your doubts, you're happier. In fact, you're when you — when you meet someone you like, stick close. Caution in financial realms is indicated. You can't be too careful.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). It's time for fantasy and having an absolute blast. You'll branch out and make new friends who will prove to be the kind of people you can insert successfully into almost any social situation. Good people like this are a treasure.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You're bigger than life today, and your popularity is on the rise as a result. Set several dates for the week. Consider making a permanent dietary change. A long-standing ailment could miraculously disappear.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Relationships drive when you put your attention toward making them grow. Of course, neglect has the opposite effect. So put grievances aside, and do something to strengthen the bonds of love.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You're in the mood for a major change of pace, which might be achieved by taking on an activity you've never done before — like parasailing or power yoga down to a disco beat. You'll catch the eye of a real charmer.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). A craving for glamour comes over you.

The desperate need to be in charge may not be in your character, but when you see others fail, you can't help but want to help. You beautifully navigate complex family matters.

Creators Syndicate

Frustration behind 'split hairs'

A friend of mine often uses the phrase "split hairs" to mean argue over petty details. Where does this interesting expression come from?

We define the phrase "split hairs" as "to make overblown or trivial distinctions." As early as 1674, a writer lamented that "the great difficulty (so) to behave oneself, as to split a hair between them, and never offend either of them." Back then, "split a hair" meant to divide something, as a single strand of hair, even so as to give you an advantage in a debate. To attempt to split something as small as a strand of hair evenly is not only an impossible but also a

pointless endeavor. Hence, the phrase soon acquired an ironic reference to arguing over trivialities, and it began to be used disparagingly.

Around 1768, an author described the frustration of petty bickering, asserting "though we are obliged to split the hair, we need not quarrel." To this day, we often use the phrase to convey the futility of wasting time and effort on arguing over something as trivial as splitting a hair evenly.

This column was prepared by the staff of Creators Syndicate's Collegiate Dictionary, Tenth Edition. Readers may send questions to Mailbox@creators.com, 577 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, P.O. Box 281, 47 Federal St., Springfield, Mass. 01102.

Worried about baby sharing bed with large grandmother

Dear Abby: I had a baby girl seven weeks ago. Her name is "Madison." My mother-in-law is here visiting from another country to help me. My problem is she insists on taking Madison into bed and with her at night so I can sleep.

I prefer that our daughter sleep in her bassinet, because my mother-in-law weighs between 350 and 375 pounds, and I'm afraid she could accidentally roll over and smother her. When I asked her the other night to please use the bassinet, she waved her hand at me in a very disrespectful gesture, and then stomped into her room with Madison.

I told my husband to tell her that I wanted my daughter in the bassinet, and she told him to tell me to come in and get her. Am I being ridiculous to be afraid? I never have Madison in my bed, because I'm afraid of rolling over on her.

—Scared New Mom in Florida
Dear Scared: You are not ridiculous, you are a conscientious new mother, and your concerns are valid.

Stick to your guns, and if it means getting less help from your mother-in-law — so be it. And stop asking your husband to intercede for you. This is be-

tween you and your mother-in-law. If she waves her hand at you again, wave this item back at her and hand her plane ticket home.

Dear Abby: I need advice. A former co-worker has invited me to her wedding. It's between her and her girlfriend. If I go, I'll have to take a 4-year-old son because I don't have a sister.

Part of me thinks I should go and take him because they're a nice couple who have been together for seven years. They love each other, and it would be good for my son to learn that it's OK to be different. However, the other part of me thinks, "How am I going to handle the inevitable question, 'Mummy, why is that girl kissing the other girl?' I know I could answer it with, 'Because they love each other,' but I think it's a bit of a leap for a 4-year-old. Then again, I'm thinking if I don't take him, I am breeding intolerance and hate — and that is not my goal."

Should I go, or just send a gift and my best wishes?

—Help! in Jacksonville, Fla.
Dear Help: Whether to take him or not depends on whether there will be other children at the wedding. If he's the only child

there, he could be bored. If other children are included, he will probably regard it as a nice party and nothing more. He can ask why one person is kissing the other, tell the truth — because they love each other. You don't have to deliver a 15-minute lecture on tolerance. Besides, by the time the wedding cake is served, he'll be more interested in dessert and playing with his contemporaries than any life lesson. Trust me on that.

Dear Abby: When an invitation to a party states, "No gifts, please," do people really mean it? I have heard people mention how much they got after such parties, who gave what, and how cheap "so-so" was.

I thought "no gifts" really meant no gifts. If you are giftless, are you in the wrong?

—Confused Partner in Michigan
DEAR CONFUSED: "No gifts" means exactly what it says. People who describe their gifts as "cheap" and complain that what was given to them wasn't good enough are petty gossips whose parties you should avoid.

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box #8440, Pasadena, CA 91088. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at <http://www.pittsburgh.com/dearabby>. Universal Press Syndicate

Husband's angry outbursts leave woman seeking help

Dear Annie: I am a married woman with a toddler. The problem is my husband, "Perry," who doesn't seem to have any control over his emotions. Any small annoyance such as dropping a bowl of soup onto the floor or hitting his shin on the open dishwasher, and he will blow up and lose his temper.

He never seems to hit me, nor do I feel like he ever would. Instead, he slams cabinet doors, yells and curses.

Last night, Perry dropped a plastic container filled with chili. He began barking, "HELP! HELP!" getting louder and louder as our son watched. I started cleaning up the mess, but Perry's ongoing hollering and nasty comments made me feel so stupid that I grabbed my son and retreated to the bathroom.

We've been together for four years. Normally, when Perry is in a bad mood, he makes me feel beautiful and intelligent. He doesn't yell on purpose. He has been to therapy for his emotional abuse and is taking an antidepressant. But this behavior happens so often that I don't know how much longer I can hang on. I am exhausted from hearing the barrage of obscenities and hate,

whether it is directed at me intentionally or not. I love Perry dearly and don't want to leave him, but I can't take much more of this.

—Melancholy in Memphis
Dear Melancholy: If Perry is still exploding on a regular basis, in spite of psychotherapy and medication, he needs more help. Either the medication isn't effective, or he needs additional therapy.

Additional therapy at a possibly anger management classes. Insist that Perry return to his therapist or ask his doctor for another referral. You also should discuss your concerns with his therapist so a very can work on these specific issues. If Perry doesn't follow through, you should consider a separation.

Dear Annie: You printed a letter from "Distraught" and alone, a sophisticated woman's parents were "sticking their heads in the sand" every time she wanted to discuss sex or birth control.

I have a 14-year-old daughter who is a freshman in high school. I thought I was cool and understanding, but I, too, had my head in the sand. Last week, my daughter told me she thought she was

pregnant. Talk about a rude awakening. I have no more illusions about what kids do these days. I wish my daughter had been like "Distraught" and talked to me about birth control before having sex.

The parents of "Distraught" should read this and understand their daughter is acting very responsibly by wanting to save them the heartbreak I just had to endure and the choices I had to make. And to "Distraught": Kudos to you for being so level-headed and wise at your young age. Keep in mind, however, that birth control does not protect you against sexually transmitted diseases. Good luck.

—No Ostrich in New York
Dear Ostrich: Thank you for the words of caution. Here's one more:

Dear Annie: I wish you had suggested that "Distraught" (and her mother) go to a Planned Parenthood office. She can get birth control information free of charge.

—Dorothy Morris, Boca Raton, Fla.
Planned Parenthood of Hawaii
Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar. Longtime Pasadena, Calif., residents can get e-mail your questions to annie@mailbox.comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 577 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, Calif. 90007. Creators Syndicate

Annie's Mailbox



Yankees' A-Rod exorcises Fenway demons

Miller's three solo homers can't save sinking Red Sox

By HOWARD ULMAN

The Associated Press

BOSTON — After getting the go-ahead hit in the ninth inning Friday night, Alex Rodriguez swung back to April, when he went 1-for-17 in his first series at Fenway Park with the Yankees.

"It feels like it was five years ago," he said.

New York's early season struggles are a distant memory, and so is Boston's April success. Even three homers by Kevin Millar couldn't stop the Yankees from beating the Red Sox yet again.

After Millar tied the score in the eighth inning with his third solo home run, Rodriguez put New York back ahead with his third hit of the game. The Yankees' 8-7 victory extended their lead to 9½ games in an AL East race that increasingly appears to be over.

"I'm sure he wants to contribute, especially here," Derek Jeter said. "The first time around was kind of tough."

After losing six of seven games to the Red Sox in April, the Yankees have won four straight against their longtime rival, opening their largest margin since winning the division by 10½ games in 2002. Boston has lost seven of 10.

"Every loss is me huge," Red

Sox manager Terry Francona said. "We're just trying so desperately to get on the right track."

New York, which acquired Rodriguez from Texas after a tentative trade between the Rangers and Red Sox fell through, overcame a 4-1, fifth-inning deficit against Curt Schilling. Boston had been 10-0 in Schilling's Fenway starts.

Keith Foulke (2-3) retired his first batter in the ninth before allowing two straight drives off the left-field wall — a double by Gary Sheffield and the single by Rodriguez.

"I made a couple of pitches you shouldn't make in this ballpark," said Foulke, who has blown four of his last seven save chances. "You've got to take the wall out of play."

Rodriguez knew his hit was over the head of Manny Ramirez, who was playing shallower than usual.

"I knew Manny was playing close because he wanted to get Sheffield out at the plate," Rodriguez said.

Mariano Rivera then closed it out with a perfect bottom half for his AL-best 35th save in 36 chances, his 23rd in a row.

Millar homered in the fourth, sixth and eighth innings, the last



The Yankees' Alex Rodriguez watches the flight of his double to bring home the winning run in the ninth inning in Boston on Friday.

one tying the score 7-all against Tom Gordon (3-3), who got the win.

Millar has five homers in his last three games after hitting five in his first 85. His feat came exactly two years after the previous three-homer game at Fenway Park, by Nomar Garciaparra against Tampa Bay.

"That was big, especially tying the game off Tom Gordon, who's as tough as there is right now out of the bullpen," Millar said.

Millar became the first player to hit three homers in a game

against the Yankees since Mo Vaughn on May 30, 1997. He is just the third player to hit three homers in a Red Sox-Yankees game, joining Vaughn and Lou Gehrig in 1927, according to the Elias Sports Bureau.

Jeter and Jason Giambi returned to the Yankees lineup after missing two games each. Jeter, who has a small break on his right hand after getting hit by a pitch Tuesday, went 0-for-5. Giambi, recovering from an intestinal parasite, was 0-for-3 and stretched his hitless streak to 21 at-bats.



Red Sox starter Curt Schilling gave up seven runs on seven hits against the Yankees on Friday.

Sheffield's 20th homer put the Yankees ahead in the first, but Boston went ahead 3-1 in the third against Jon Lieber on Trot Nixon's RBI double and Bill Mueller's two-run shot.

After Millar's first homer extended the lead to 4-1, Kenny Lofton hit an RBI single in the fifth, when the Yankees left the bases loaded.

Schilling couldn't stop the Yankees in the sixth, when he allowed four singles and one walk while facing six batters.

Jorge Posada hit an RBI single, Ruben Sierra singled in a run on a high bounce halfway down the first-base line and Lofton doubled in a run for a 5-4 lead. Bernie Williams then hit a two-run double off Mike Timlin.

Two more homers by Millar around Jason Varitek's RBI double in the seventh tied the score.

Ordonez back on DL, but White Sox upbeat

Knee injury could end star outfielder's season

The Associated Press

CHICAGO — The Chicago White Sox plan to keep scoring runs in bounces, even without Magglio Ordonez and Frank Thomas in the lineup.

"We can't try to go out there and try to [replace] Magglio and Frank because we have to play our game," Carlos Lee said. "We have to stick together."

After learning that Ordonez could miss the rest of the season because of an injured knee, Lee hit a two-run homer and drove in three runs and the White Sox beat the Detroit Tigers 6-4 on Friday night.

Ordonez, a four-time All-Star, went back on the disabled list Friday, and could spend up to eight weeks on crutches. The outfielder has a fluid problem in his knee, stemming from a collision the All-Star right fielder had with second baseman Willie Harris on May 19 in Cleveland.

Ordonez went on the 15-day disabled list a week after the collision and had surgery to repair

tor cartilage on June 5.

Chicago already is missing Thomas, who's expected to miss eight weeks with a broken bone in his left foot.

After the White Sox learned the bad news, Esteban Loaiza (9-5) allowed four runs and seven hits in six innings to win for the first time in four starts since he beat the Cubs on June 27.

Cliff Politte and Damaso Marte combined for two hitless innings, and Shingo Takatsu pitched a 1-2-3 ninth for his eighth save in eight chances.

Indians 3, Royals 2: Ben Broussard homered off Nate Field (2-2) on a 3-0 count with one out in the 11th, giving Cleveland its eighth win in a major league-high 19 extra-inning games this year.

Rick White (4-4) stranded the go-ahead run at second in the 11th by strung out Ruben Mateo and pinch-hitter Dee Brown.

Twins 7, Orioles 3: Corey Koskie homered and had a season-high four RBIs as visiting Minnesota won its fifth straight and maintained its half-game lead over Chicago in the AL Central.

Carlos Silva (9-7) allowed three runs and nine hits in six-plus in-



Jose Guillen drove in five runs for the Anaheim Angels in their 8-2 victory in Seattle on Friday.

nings to earn his first win in four starts since June 23. John Maine (0-1) gave up four runs, seven hits and three walks over 3½ innings in his major league debut.

Blue Jays 7, Devil Rays 4: Frank Menchino had three hits, including a solo homer, and Toronto scored six unearned runs in the third at SkyDome.

Miguel Batista (9-6) allowed three runs and six hits in six innings to win for the seventh time in his last eight decisions at SkyDome.

Angels 8, Mariners 2: Jose Guillen had three hits, a home run and five RBIs at Seattle.

John Lackey (8-9) won for the fourth time in five decisions, allowing two runs and nine hits in 5½ innings.

Rangers solve Mulder, extend lead in AL West

By GREG BEACHAM

The Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — Kenny Rogers thinks his 18-game winning streak at the Coliseum is just one of those inexpressible baseball quirks.

There's no mystery to the Texas Rangers' surge to the top of the AL West: a powerful lineup, Rogers' pitching and a confidence that grows with every win over their rivals.

Kevin Mench hit a three-run homer during Texas' sixth-inning rally, and the Rangers snapped Mark Mulder's 11-game winning streak with an 8-3 victory over the Athletics on Friday night.

Rogers joined Mulder as the majors' only 13-game winners with another victory in Oakland, though he had plenty of help.

Rogers (13-3), who allowed six hits and three runs in 5½ innings, hasn't lost in 35 starts in Oakland since Aug. 7, 1994.

Though Rogers wasn't perfect, his teammates' run support kept him out of trouble — even against Mulder, who had won five straight starts.

"I don't think these guys care who's on the mound against them," Rogers said. "I think they know I'm going to give them a pretty good chance to win. They were the ones who did it tonight,

and doing this against Mark Mulder, that's a pretty special thing."

Eric Young added a two-run double for the Rangers, who increased their division lead over Oakland to 4½ games in the opener of a key three-game series.

Texas pounded Mulder (13-3), the winning pitcher in the All-Star Game, for 10 hits and seven runs over six innings in his first loss in 15 starts since April 28. The left-hander fell two wins short of Catfish Hunter's franchise record for consecutive victories.

"Our guys grinded it, but you've got to feel real fortunate when you score that many runs off him," Texas manager Buck Showalter said. "We got a little behind, but that rally was great. You usually end up on the wrong end of something like that when you fall behind Mulder."

Mulder never appeared to be in top form while losing to Texas at home for the first time in seven career starts. He lost control in the sixth, when Texas sent 10 hitters to the plate and scored five runs.

"I didn't have good stuff tonight, and you can't rely on off-speed pitches all the time," Mulder said. "The more you pitch, the more times I didn't have my fast ball, but it was more obvious tonight. We know it's a big series, but we're not stressing over it. It would have been nice if I pitched better and got a win out of it."

Fossum cruises, then sinks

Castilla's homer ruins no-hit bid; Arizona breaks team loss mark

The Associated Press

PHOENIX — Casey Fossum cruised into the seventh inning with a no-hitter against the Colorado Rockies. Vinny Castilla changed all that with one big swing.

Castilla broke up Fossum's no-hit bid with a two-run homer in the seventh, then added another two-run shot in the eighth in an 8-2 victory Friday night that sent the Arizona Diamondbacks to a team-record 12th straight loss.

After walking two batters with one out in the first, Fossum (2-9) retired 17 straight before walking Todd Helton leading off the seventh. Castilla then homered to level on a 1-1 pitch.

"It seemed like the first batter, I was just trying to be too fine with my pitches," the left-hander said. "Any time you walk the lead-off guy, it's not good. It comes back to haunt you."

Jerome Burnitz hit another two-run homer later in the inning, a 445-foot drive that gave Colorado a 4-1 lead.

"He just located his pitches well, and then in the seventh inning we got good pitches to hit and put good swings on them," Burnitz said.

Fossum allowed six runs, three homers and four walks in 7 1/3 innings while striking out seven for the Diamondbacks, who have lost nine straight home games, also a team record.

Jeff Passero (2-6) gave up one run and four hits in seven innings.

Helton hit an RBI single in the eighth and Castilla added a two-run homer off Mike Kopechne to reach 20 for the eighth time in his career. Before homering



Pittsburgh's Jose Castilla leaps over Cincinnati's Ryan Freel to complete an inning-ending double play in the third inning on Friday night.

Wednesday and Thursday in Los Angeles, Castilla hadn't hit any since June 15.

"When you give your home-run stroke, they start coming," Castilla said.

Brewers 7, Astros 6: Roger Clemens tied his season high by allowing three homers, and the visiting Brewers stopped a four-game losing streak on Wes Helms' ninth-inning sacrifice fly.

Clemens, who didn't get a decision, led trailing 5-0 after allowing five runs and eight hits in 5 1/3

innings. He walked one and struck out seven, raising his career total to 4,232. He remained at 321 wins, two behind Nolan Ryan and Don Sutton for 12th place on the career list. Clemens also hit a blooper single in the third, but was then picked off at first.

Scott Podsednik broke the Brewers' 25-inning scoreless streak with a homer on the second pitch of the game.

Cubs 5, Phillies 1: Moises Alou, Sammy Sosa and Derrek Lee homered to back Kerry Wood

(5-3), and visiting Chicago won its third straight.

Alou went 2-for-4, and has six homers and 13 RBIs in his last nine games. Lee's homer was his fifth in nine games, and fifth in 31 at-bats against Brett Myers (5-8).

Phillies first baseman Jim Thome, who leads the majors with 31 homers, missed the game because of tendinitis in his right index finger. Philadelphia closer Billy Wagner wasn't available and will miss the rest of the series because of a sore throwing shoulder.

Dodgers 3, Padres 2: Adrian Beltré homered off Rod Beck (0-2) with one out in the ninth to give the homestanding Dodgers their 16th win in 18 games and increase their lead in the NL West over the Padres and San Francisco to 3 1/2 games.

The teams played in front of a Dodger Stadium-record crowd of 55,311.

Eric Gagne (3-0) pitched a scoreless ninth for the win.

Expos 2, Marlins 1: Orlando Cabrera's sacrifice fly in the fourth ended the host Expos' 42-inning scoreless streak against Florida, and Jose Vidro hit a go-ahead RBI double in the fifth.

The Expos had been shut out in each of their last four games against the Marlins, but Cabrera's sac fly off Brad Penny (8-8) tied it at 1.

It was the longest such streak in the majors since the California Angels shut out Cleveland over 44 consecutive innings in 1966, according to the Elias Sports Bureau. The New York Highlanders had a major-league-record 45-inning scoreless streak against Boston in 1906.

Pirates 6, Reds 3: Oliver Perez (6-4) struck out 11 in seven innings, and Craig Wilson drove in two runs for the host Pirates.

Pittsburgh is 6-2 since the All-Star break and has won 18 of 24. The Pirates, once 9-19 at home, are 23-23.

Perez (6-4) gave up five hits and three runs. Jose Mesa worked the ninth for his 28th save in 29 opportunities.

Pittsburgh's (4-9) gave up nine hits and six runs in 3 1/3 innings.

Hermanson comes back to frustrate Cardinals

By R.B. FALLSTROM

The Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — Dustin Hermanson made an impressive return to St. Louis.

Hermanson, released by the Cardinals last June, took a no-hitter into the seventh inning and Barry Bonds hit a three-run homer one day before his 40th birthday, helping the San Francisco Giants end St. Louis' five-game winning streak with a 7-2 victory Friday night.

Hermanson (4-3) allowed only a fourth-inning walk to Albert Pujols before Pujols' 28th homer ended the no-hit bid with one out in the seventh. Bonds didn't move a step in left field as the ball sailed far above him — a drive estimated at 434 feet.

"If you guys go back and look at it, it was shoulder high," Hermanson said of the pitch. "I've got to tip my cap to him. If he's not the best hitter in the game, he's one of the two or three."

Hermanson gave up two runs and three hits in 6 1/3 innings. He struck out five and walked one for his first victory since June 27, then had nothing but good things to say about the Cardinals.

"I have no regrets about what I did over here," Hermanson said. "I wasn't trying to get back at these guys. I have all the respect in the world for Tony La Russa."

The Giants, facing the Cardinals for the first time this year, won 6-1 against St. Louis in the last two seasons. The Cardinals lost for only the second time in 14 home games and have won 15 of 18 overall.

Bonds' 25th homer of the season, and 683rd of his career, gave the Giants a 6-0 lead in the seventh. He had been 0-for-8 against Jeff Suppan (9-6) before launching a 3-1 fastball into the right-field wall for his first homer in five days.

Mariners release former AL batting champion

The Associated Press

SEATTLE — Former AL batting champion John Olerud was released Friday by the last-place Seattle Mariners.

Olerud, 35, was hitting .245 with five homers and 22 RBIs in 77 games when he was designated for assignment last week. He was in the final year of a contract which pays him \$7.7 million this season.

Olerud led the AL with a .363 average with Toronto in 1993, when the Blue Jays won their second straight World Series title. He has a career average of .295, with 2143 hits, 244 homers and 1,167 RBIs.

Wagner out for weekend

PHILADELPHIA — Philadel-



phia closer Billy Wagner will miss the rest of a weekend series against the Chicago Cubs because of a sore throwing shoulder.

Wagner said the injury occurred Wednesday, when he worked 1 1/3 innings against Florida for his 16th save.

In 31 games, he is 3-0 with a 3.12 ERA and 46 strikeouts.

Broadcaster back in booth

TORONTO — Toronto Blue Jays radio announcer Tom Cheek was back in the broadcast booth Friday night for the game against the Tampa Bay Devil Rays, his first game since undergoing sur-

gery last month to remove a brain tumor. Cheek announced the fifth and sixth innings of the game.

Cheek, 65, called every game in franchise history before missing one in early June because of his father's death, ending a 27 1/2-year streak covering 4,306 consecutive regular-season and 41 postseason games.

Stanford faces surgery

CLEVELAND — Cleveland left-hander Jason Stanford will likely undergo ligament replacement surgery on his elbow next week and will miss next season.

"At this point, he'll probably have an operation," trainer Lonnie Soloff said Friday. "I think it will end up being Tommy John," a procedure named after the pitcher who first underwent the revolutionary operation in 1974.

Stanford was 0-1 in two starts before going on the disabled list in April.

Spencer steps onto DL

NEW YORK — New York Mets outfielder Shane Spencer went on the 15-day disabled list Friday after cutting his sandaled right foot on broken glass in a bar.

After attending a charity event Thursday night, Spencer and his wife were walking a bar in Manhattan. Wearing sandals, he stepped on some broken glass, causing blood to spurt from a deep gash in his right heel.

Paramedics applied five stitches as a bandage. Spencer was given a walking cane and doctors told him to stay off his foot for about a week.

Expos recall Corcoran

MONTREAL — The Montreal Expos recalled right-hander Roy Corcoran from Class AAA Edmondson, Friday, and optioned left-hander Chad Beitz to Edmondson. Corcoran was 4-1 with five saves and a 2.98 ERA in 29 games with Edmondson.

Orioles' Matos on DL

BALTIMORE — The Baltimore Orioles placed center fielder Jose Matos on the 15-day disabled list Friday because of a bruised right shin.

Matos slammed into the wall at Fenway Park on Wednesday while making a sensational catch against Boston. He missed time during spring training with a stress fracture in his right hand.

Matos is hitting .224 with six homers and 28 RBIs in 89 games.

Judge rules Bryant jury to hear about accuser's sexual activity

BY JON SARCHIE
The Associated Press

DENVER — The judge in the Kobe Bryant rape case has decided that jurors will be allowed to hear about the sex life of the NBA star's accuser so they can determine her credibility.

With about a month to go before the trial begins, District Judge Tury Ruckledge on Friday gave what legal experts see as a solid victory to the defense.

Ruckledge, however, limited the admissible evidence to the woman's sexual activities in the three days before her July 1, 2003 hospital examination, saying it is relevant to help determine the cause of her injuries and the source of DNA evidence.

"While the defense lost some things it wanted, it has accumulated a massive amount of damaging facts," Lyn Pozner, former president of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, said. "This evidence is as damag-

ing a set of facts as a prosecutor could ever have to contend with and one wonders if at long last the accuser will pull the plug on this case."

The woman's lawyer, John Clune, declined comment. Bryant's lawyers didn't return a call. The prosecution will decide how to proceed after reviewing the decision but no options have been ruled out, spokeswoman Krista Flannigan said.

"We have no plans of not moving forward with the prosecution," she said. "It's just what, what is that going to look like?"

Colorado's rape-shield law generally prevents the sex life of an alleged assault victim from being admitted as evidence. Judges can study evidence and witness testimony behind closed doors to determine if it is relevant.

Ruckledge said "specific instances of sexual activity" and evidence of sex can be offered to bolster the contention that her injuries were not caused by Bryant.

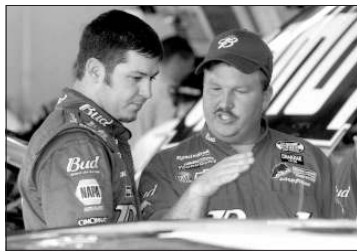
Under seal, the judge filed a detailed ruling explaining what evidence will be admitted.

Pozner said the ruling gives the defense ammunition to attack the alleged victim's credibility.

"In most sexual assault cases the complaining witness is the strength of the case," he said. "In this one she's the weakness of the case."

Bryant, 25, faces an Aug. 27 trial on a single charge of felony sexual assault. He has pleaded not guilty, saying he had consensual sex last summer with the woman, then a 19-year-old front desk worker at a Vail-area resort. If convicted, Bryant faces four years in prison or 20 years to life on probation, and a fine up to \$750,000.

The defense has suggested the woman had multiple sexual partners in the days surrounding her June 2003 encounter with Bryant, including sex with someone after the alleged attack and before she contacted the authorities. Her lawyer has denied that claim.



Martin Truex Jr., left, talks with crew chief Tony Eury Jr. in the garage in Loudon, N.H., on Friday. Truex qualified third for the Siemens 300.

Truex Jr. gets early start in Nextel Cup

Busch driver replaces recovering Earnhardt; Newman wins pole for Siemens 300 at NHIS

BY MIKE HARRIS
The Associated Press

LOUDON, N.H. — Martin Truex Jr. planned to start his Nextel Cup career at New Hampshire International Speedway — just not this soon.

Truex replaced injured Dale Earnhardt Jr. in practice and qualifying Friday and is set to replace Earnhardt at the wheel of the No. 8 Chevrolet early in Sunday's Siemens 300.

The 24-year-old driver, who leads the NASCAR Busch Series driver standings for Earnhardt's Chance 2 Motorsports team, took advantage of the opportunity and qualified fifth in his Cup debut.

He trailed only pole winner Ryan Newman, whose lap of 132.360 mph — as the last of 46 drivers in the qualifying line — knocked series points leader Jimmie Johnson's 131.984 off the top spot.

Truex was next at 131.660. "We tested here because I was going to drive a Cup race here in September for Chance 2, so I knew I could get in and do a good job and drive it as hard as I could," Truex said.

Under NASCAR rules, the driver's previous crash last week had to have to start at the rear of the 43-car field on Sunday, but Truex earned the team a good pit start with his qualifying effort.

Earnhardt chose to sit out Friday because he still is in pain and needs more time to heal burns on his legs and face received in a frightening crash last week. He planned to get into the car for practice Saturday.

"We just have to wait and see how his plays itself out," Earnhardt said, looking a bit uncomfortable with his dressings, including a white gauze bandage wrapped tightly around his neck.

"Unfortunately, after the wreck last weekend, I won't be able to run the entire race," he said. "I'm really disappointed. I've never been in this situation before. It's painful to walk around, but what's most comfortable for me is sitting in the race car. This is just an opportunity to give Martin more time and a better opportunity to give us a better finish."

Siemens 300 lineup

NASCAR Nextel Cup
After Friday qualifying; race Sunday
at New Hampshire International
Speedway
Loudon, N.H.
Lap length: 1.56 miles
(Car number in parentheses)

- (12) Ryan Newman, Dodge, 132.360 mph.
- (48) Jimmie Johnson, Chevrolet, 131.984.
- (8) Martin Truex Jr., Chevrolet, 131.660.
- (15) Michael Waltrip, Chevrolet, 131.442.
- (5) David McMurray, Dodge, 131.442.
- (6) Casey Mears, Dodge, 131.410.
- (2) Jeremy Mayfield, Dodge, 131.398.
- (25) Rusty Wallace, Dodge, 131.107.
- (20) Tony Stewart, Chevrolet, 131.060.
- (32) Ricky Craven, Chevrolet, 131.054.
- (5) Terry Labonte, Chevrolet, 131.054.
- (10) Ward Burton, Chevrolet, 130.833.
- (28) Elliott Sager, Ford, 129.778.
- (30) Dave Blaney, Chevrolet, 129.650.
- (10) Scott Riggs, Chevrolet, 130.658.
- (13) Greg Biffle, Ford, 130.483.
- (49) Ken Schrader, Dodge, 130.416.
- (61) Joe Nemechek, Chevrolet, 130.378.
- (28) Kevin Harvick, Chevrolet, 130.215.
- (16) Bobby Hamilton, Chevrolet, 130.158.
- (31) Robby Gordon, Chevrolet, 130.104.
- (44) Casey Mears, Dodge, 130.011.
- (25) Brian Vickers, Chevrolet, 129.993.
- (24) Jeff Gordon, Chevrolet, 129.860.
- (88) Dale Jarrett, Ford, 129.754.
- (61) Mark Martin, Ford, 129.716.
- (29) Jeff Burton, Ford, 129.617.
- (69) Bobby Hamilton Jr., Dodge, 129.608.
- (77) Brendan Gaughan, Dodge, 129.283.
- (24) Jeff Gordon, Dodge, 129.271.
- (17) Matt Kenseth, Ford, 128.195.
- (22) Scott Wimmer, Dodge, 128.446.
- (44) Kyle Petty, Dodge, provisional.
- (62) Todd Bodine, Ford, provisional.
- (48) Monte Garretts, Dodge, provisional.
- (48) Monte Garretts, Dodge, provisional.
- (72) Ted Christopher, Ford, provisional.
- (42) Hermie Sadler, Chevrolet, provisional.

Failed to qualify

- (51) Kevin Lesage, Chevrolet, 126.148.
- (46) Kyle Busch, Chevrolet, DNF.
- (60) Ryan McGlynn, Chevrolet, WD.

Truex is aware of the importance of his assignment.

"Obviously, this isn't the way we'd like to get our first Nextel Cup start," he said. "But we're really focused to win the championship and we're here to help get him all the points we can get."

Messages of Support

★ Thank you from Portland Oregon, Melanie and Gode love and speed, Melchie

★ Each and every one of you can be proud of being great such American heroes. You bravery will go down in history. Thank you for putting your safety and well being on the line to preserve my freedom and my liberties and the freedom and liberties of my children and my children's children. God Bless you and God Bless America. A grateful family in Buffalo, NY

★ I just wanted to say thanks for the terrific job you're doing. It must be hell traveling through a desert sandstorm, with only one meal a day and about 16 hours of sleep, let alone the obvious dangers of the war itself. But I'm following you on the news and I support you every step of the way. Hang in there, -JMM

★ Thanks men, those of us behind you are grateful for your service & wish you all the best. God Bless You All, L. Greer

★ To all of our troops—it's amazing the number of people who are behind all of you. The naysayers can get a lot of press but they are the smallest of a minority. People try to go about their everyday business but with one exception—you are always on our minds and in our prayers. Each and everyone of you are important & precious to a mighty God who is very real. And so you are to us also. Love to all you, Carol Lowe, Bartlett, TN

★ Hey my names Megan even though you don't know me and I don't know you I'm extremely proud of you going and fighting for our country i bet it must be scary huh anyways i will pray for you all and May God Be With You all of you.

★ We are all proud of everyone over there keep your heads up and keep strong, the yellow ribbons are flying high "ill they all come home" you all are in our prayers, and to all the men in send him my hussy safe and keep him home soon!!!!!!!

★ Gooden arrived 11.6 points and 6.5 rebounds in 79 games — 17 starts — for the Magic last season. Drafted with the No. 4 overall pick in 2002 by Memphis, Gooden was traded by the Grizzlies to Orlando during his rookie year.

Cavaliers get F Gooden from Magic

The Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Needing to find a replacement for Carlos Boozer and to appease their fans, the Cleveland Cavaliers acquired Dwyane Gooden in a foulioner swap with Orlando on Friday.

Cleveland sent forward Tony Battie and two second-round draft picks to the Magic in exchange for Gooden, Brazilian rookie forward Anderson Varejao and 7-foot center Steven Hunter.

Gooden should help Cleveland offset the stunning departure of Boozer, who bolted as a free agent when he signed a six-year, \$68 million offer sheet with Utah last week.

On Tuesday, the Cavaliers began their post-Boozer cleanup by acquiring guard Eric Snow in a trade with Philadelphia.

While the 6-foot-10, 242-pound Gooden isn't quite as good as Boozer, he's young, talented and inexpensive. He'll make \$3.2 million next season and the Cavaliers can pick up a \$4 million option for 2005-06 by Oct. 31.

Gooden averaged 11.6 points and 6.5 rebounds in 79 games — 17 starts — for the Magic last season. Drafted with the No. 4 overall pick in 2002 by Memphis, Gooden was traded by the Grizzlies to Orlando during his rookie year.

■ Other NBA news Friday:

Free agent Jarron Collins re-signed with the Utah Jazz on Friday.

The Minnesota Timberwolves agreed to a multiyear contract with key backup Fred Hoiberg on Friday.

Armstrong's ride into record book nearly complete

Victory in time trial turns final stage into victory lap

BY JOHN LEICESTER
The Associated Press

BESANCON, France — Lance Armstrong capped his most dominant Tour de France with another impressive win in the final time trial Saturday, guaranteeing that he will ride into history as the first six-time champion in the race's 101-year history.

Pedaling furiously toward a stage victory that he didn't even need, Armstrong overpowered his rivals again, quickly building a gaping lead which he carried past cheering crowds to the finish line of the individual race against the clock.

Riding a high-tech aerodynamic bike, and wearing the leader's yellow jersey, the Texan finished 61 seconds faster than Jan Ullrich, the 1997 Tour champion and a five-time runner-up.

The stage win was Armstrong's fifth of this Tour, his most since he won cycling's most prestigious event for the first time in 1999.

Only a crippling crash or other catastrophe will prevent Sunday's closing ride into Paris from being a lap of honor for Armstrong.

"To be on the verge of breaking history is incredibly special," he said.

Still, he remained cautious.

"I'm always careful to say that we have another day to go, and if you crash on the Champs Elysee



Lance Armstrong, above, will earn his 66th yellow jersey on Sunday, the third-most in the Tour de France. Eddy Merckx had 96 and Bernard Hinault 78.

and don't finish tomorrow, then you don't win. So I have to be careful and hope it works out," Armstrong said.

"What does it mean to me win six Tours? It's very difficult to say. You'll have to ask me in a couple weeks, I think. When I won the first one, I thought I could die and go away a happy man. To win six is very hard to put into words."

Andreas Klöden, Ullrich's teammate, was third Saturday and rode so fast that he surpassed Ivan Basso for second in the overall standings.

Armstrong remained modest.

"I wouldn't be so bold as to call it a domination," he said.

Basso, the only rider other than Armstrong to win a stage in the Pyrenees this year, is 6:59 behind. Ullrich is 9:09 back.

Armstrong's overall lead of 6:38 over Klöden is one of his biggest. Last year, he beat Ullrich by just 61 seconds.

AFA: Athletes get no special treatment

BY ROBERT WELLER
The Associated Press

AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo. — A review has concluded that the Air Force Academy's athletic department does not give athletes special treatment to maintain winning records.

The review, led by a retired general, was ordered as part of an examination of the academy after female cadets reported being punished for reporting sexual assaults. Critics questioned the handling of disciplinary cases involving athletes.

At a meeting with the Board of Visitors, the academy's oversight board, retired Gen. Michael Ryan recommended some changes, including ending the

practice of excusing some athletes from interviews with selection officers. The interviews are part of the academy's admissions process.

Nevertheless, Ryan concluded, "the Air Force Academy's admissions process does not give undue emphasis to recruiting." He said 16 percent of the academy's cadets were recruited as athletes.

He said there was no statistically significant difference in the academic success of athletes and non-athletes, and that their Air Force careers also were comparable.

No mention was made during the meeting of four cadets, including two athletes, who face charges involving illegal steroids. Lt. Gen. John Rosa, the academy's superintendent, said there was no hint of any athletic department involvement in the cases.

Doolan upends Sorenstam to win Evian Masters title

The Associated Press

EVIAN, France — Australia's Wendy Doolan captured the Evian Masters title on Sunday.

Doolan, 35, collected the big-check check of her professional career (\$375,000) with a final-round 7-under-par 65 to finish 18-under, one stroke ahead of world No. 1 Annika Sorenstam, who had a 71.

Doolan climbed the leaderboard with a birdie-eagle-birdie-eagle-birdie streak from holes six to 10. She played the final eight holes in even-par, finishing with a birdie.

Doolan trailed Sorenstam by six strokes with 12 holes to play, then led by three when she stepped onto the 16th tee.

"I just knew I had it in me to make a lot of birdies on this course," the Australian said. "This means what I'm doing is working for me."

It was Doolan's third LPGA title in a nine-year career.

Golf roundup

Sorenstam, who led by three at the start of the final round, played the first 15 holes in 2-over. She made a charge with three birdies on the last three holes, missing a 35-foot eagle putt on 18 that would've forced a playoff.

Sorenstam finished second, with Mexico's Lorena Ochoa (68) in third, two behind Doolan.

"It's disappointing when you get into position to win and don't do it," Sorenstam said. "But today I just didn't make anything happen."

Forty-four-year-old Michelle Wie shot 69 and finished tied for 33rd.

Club pro from Delaware leads Senior British Open

PORTSMOUTH, Northern Ireland — Peter Oakley, a club pro from Delaware, shot 1-over 73 at wind-

swept Royal Portrush on Saturday to take a one-shot lead into the final round of the Senior British Open.

Oakley, who had to qualify for the championship, leads Don Pooley and Mark McNulty by one stroke. Tom Kite and Mark James trail by two.

Asked if he believed he would be leading the \$1.6 million championship going into the final round, the pro from The Rookery in Rehoboth Beach said, "Not in my wildest dreams. I was more nervous trying to qualify for the event. I was one of 132 people trying to qualify for 20 spots."

Oakley's 4-under 68 on Friday gave him a share of the lead. And when Pooley bogeyed the 18th on Saturday, Oakley took the lead.

Graham Marsh became the first player in a major tournament to make a hole-in-one on the same hole twice, according to tournament officials.

Marsh holed a 9-iron on the

LaSalle basketball coaches resign amid rape investigations

The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — La Salle University basketball coaches Billy Hahn and John Miller have resigned amid two rape investigations involving players on the men's team, school officials announced Saturday.

Hahn, the men's coach, and Miller, the women's coach, were placed on administrative leave July 6. That move came after an investigation that yielded rape charges against former players Michael Cleaves and Gary Neal, and a separate claim by a former women's player who said she was sexually assaulted by a men's team player but discouraged from telling police by La Salle coaches.

"This is a complex situation and not a judgment on the personal character of the coaches, but the university's policies and procedures are clear," Brother Michael J. McGinnis, president of La Salle University, said in a statement Saturday. "When it comes to the safety of our students and our community, there is no room for personal interpretation of our rules."

The coaches did not attend the news conference and calls to Hahn's attorney were not immediately returned. A phone listing for Miller was not immediately available.

Cleaves, 22, of Paterson, N.J. and Neal, 19, of Baltimore, face charges of rape, involuntary deviate sexual intercourse, sexual assault, unlawful restraint and other charges as the result of an alleged incident June 24 in which a University of New Haven women's player claimed she was raped during an on-campus party.

The 19-year-old woman had been working at a youth basketball camp run by Miller.

DNA evidence matched samples taken from both players, police said.

Both men turned themselves in

Sports briefs

earlier this month and are no longer enrolled at the university, according to school officials.

Williams sisters win in Calif.

CARSON, Calif. — Venus Williams and Lindsay Davenport advanced to the JPMorgan Chase Open semifinals with easy victories Friday, setting up a rematch of last week's final at Stanford.

Williams defeated 11th-seeded Francesca Schiavone of Italy 7-5, 6-1, and No. 3 Davenport beat seventh-seeded Nadia Petrova of Russia 6-1, 6-1 in the quarterfinals.

Top-seeded Serena Williams needed nearly two hours to get by No. 8 Yvona Zvonareva of Russia 4-6, 6-3.

Roddick back in Indy semifinal

INDIANAPOLIS — There will be no rematch of last year's title match in the RCA Championships.

Defending champion Andy Roddick did his job Friday night by defeating sixth-seeded Dmitriy Kirsanov in a quarterfinal match.

But No. 12 seed Nicolas Pietrangeli ousted 2003 runner-up Paradon Schichaplan in a quarterfinal.

Roddick defeated Hrbaty 6-2, 6-3, and Kiefer saved five break points in a tiebreaker before defeating fourth-seeded Schichaplan 7-6 (7), 7-6 (5) in a match that lasted 2 hours, 33 minutes and included 131 points.

Earlier, Ivan Ljubicic overcame a two-shot deficit to win third-seeded Sebastian Grosjean. He'll meet Roddick in one semifinal Saturday and Gregory Carraz will play Kiefer.

Avananche re-sign Tangany

DENVER — The Colorado Avalanche re-signed restricted free-agent forward Alex Tanguay to a one-year contract Friday, avoiding salary arbitration.

170-yard 11th on Thursday. On Saturday, he acted it with an 8-iron.

Franchise in front in Milwaukee

MILWAUKEE — Carlos Franco tied his best round on the PGA Tour on Friday, carding a 7-under 63 for a one-stroke lead after two rounds of the U.S. Bank Championship.

Franco, who won the event formerly known as the Greater Milwaukee Open in 1999, moved to 9-under 131, one shot ahead of Rich Beem, who had a second 66 at Brown Deer Park.

Scott Hoch (65), Bo Van Pelt (68) and Patrick Sheehan (68) were two shots back at 133.

Sheehan and Sheehan were among a record-tying eight golfers who teed off Friday as the leaders after 18 holes.

The other first-round leaders followed, especially Brian Korte, who followed his 65 Thursday with a 9-over-79 and missed the cut.

Danny Briggs, Olin Browne

and Todd Fischer each shot 70 and were tied for eighth at 135. Robert Gomez and Brett Quigley shot 71 and were tied for 14th.

Lonard up in Irish Open

DROGHEDA, Ireland — Peter Lonard overcame a triple-bogey on the seventh hole Saturday to post an even-par 72, giving him a one-stroke over fellow-Australian Brett Rumford after three rounds of the Irish Open.

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Cowboys banking on George for a title run

BY TODD ARCHER

The Dallas Morning News

IRVING, Texas — Lounging with his son, Jaire, on a blue sofa in the middle of the Cowboys' locker room Friday afternoon, Eddie George felt at ease.

"It looks the same from the last time I was here," George said.

Eight years after his first visit to Dallas to accept the Doak Walker Award, George will take up a more permanent residence with the Cowboys, signing a one-year contract that can be worth as much as \$5 million. He received a \$1.5 million signing bonus and will be paid a base salary of \$660,000. If he runs for 1,300 yards and scores 10 touchdowns, he will receive \$3 million in incentives.

And if he does that, the Cowboys might have a successful season.

"I think I can still carry the load and do the things I've been doing," said George, who ran 10,009 yards in eight seasons for the Tennessee Titans.

"I was just asking for the oppor-

tunity and being in the right fit and the right situation. This could be it."

George, 30, will have to prove that he has plenty left when training camp begins next week in Oxnard, Calif.

Among the top 20 rushers in NFL history, George (3.7 yards per carry) is one of only two who have not averaged 4 yards a carry (John Riggins is the other). He has also been nagged by shoulder, knee, calf and toe injuries in recent years, but he has not missed a start.

The Cowboys were prepared to let second-round pick Julius Jones win the starting job, but now, according to coach Bill Parcells' plan, the best player will play, and that's OK with George. But he has never shared the workload.

"It's not ideal," George said. "I've never been in that situation. I'll get into camp and see what happens."

George is also aware of Parcells' history with Otis Anderson, who went five years between



Eddie George, left, signed a one-year contract that, with incentives, could be worth as much as \$5 million. Cowboys owner/GM Jerry Jones, right, would gladly pay the \$3 million bonus for a 1,300-yard season that includes 10 touchdowns. George, 30, has 10,009 career rushing yards.

1,000-yard seasons before 1989, when he ran for 1,023 for the New York Giants. In 1990, the Giants selected running back Rodney Hampton in the first round, but Anderson's hard-running style led Parcells to his second Super Bowl victory.

"Bill Parcells has a very good feel for the way to maximize the value to a team of a veteran running back," owner and general manager Jerry Jones said.

Terry Glenn, who played with George at Ohio State, believes a change of scenery will help.

"Sometimes when you stay with a team a long, long time, things get redundant," Glenn said.

"Also, I think he's going to have a chip on his shoulder with the way things went down in Tennessee."

The Titans asked George to take a pay cut, which he declined, leading to his release earlier this week.

"It's very odd," said George of being with another team. "Change is inevitable, and it comes in different ways. And right now I'm in a transition point and an adjustment period. The organization is doing everything they can to make me feel comfortable as soon as possible. It's been difficult. It's been emotional."

The Cowboys had a similar divorce last year when they released Emmitt Smith, the NFL's career leading rusher. Smith signed with Arizona, and he ran for a career-low 256 yards in 10 games.

The Cowboys are hoping George can be another Anderson, not last year's Smith.

Camp: a QB shuffle

CAMP, FROM BACK PAGE

sions behind Marc Bulger and gives the Giants an experienced QB to start if Manning isn't ready to take a pounding behind what could be a shaky offensive line.

Collins landed in Oakland, where his size and strong arm make him the perfect quarterback for the "vertical offense" that owner Al Davis has always favored. Turner, 38-year-old incumbent Rich Gannon, who missed nine games last season with injury, is the starter, but that could change.

Tim Couch has moved, too.

The No. 1 overall pick when Cleveland returned to the NFL in 1999, Couch was released by the Browns and signed with Green Bay as Brett Favre's backup. Jeff Garcia left San Francisco and signed with the Browns, a team seemingly in disarray, especially in the front office, where coach Butch Davis has dumped almost everyone, including team spokesman Todd Stewart.

The first order of business for most teams this week will be signing their first-round picks.

Manning's deal with the Giants will set the standard, at least for the four first-round quarterbacks.

The others are San Diego's Philip Rivers, taken fourth by New York and traded to the Chargers for Manning; Pittsburgh's Ben Roethlisberger, 11 overall; and Buffalo's J.P. Losman, 22nd.

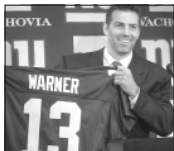
Few GMs seem worried.

"I learned my attitude toward negotiation from George," says Giants General Manager Eric Accorsi, referring to his predecessor, late George Young. "Nothing ever gets done until Bastille Day."

For those unfamiliar with the French Revolution, Bastille Day is July 14.

But things are later now. The regular season doesn't begin until Sept. 9 when Indianapolis visits New England in a reprise of last season's AFC title game and the first full menu of games isn't until Sept. 12, the latest opening Sunday for the NFL since 1987.

Signings could be slow in a few cases. Washington announced it wouldn't draft Kellen Winslow Jr. because he is represented by Carl and Kevin Poston, known for holding out their players. Winslow was taken by Cleveland. The Patriots also represent two other first-rounders: wide receiver Reggie Williams of Jacksonville and cornerback Chris Gamble of Carolina.



Quarterback Kurt Warner left St. Louis for the New York Giants.

Rivers is likely to wait to see what Manning gets and he could be out for a while — the Chargers (as Cincinnati used to be) are notoriously penurious.

But Tom Condon, Manning's agent, got Peyton into camp relatively quickly when he was the No. 1 overall pick; Accorsi says he will pay Eli, as No. 1, not No. 4, and is talking with Condon, with whom he's worked well in the past.

So expect most rookies to show up pretty quickly.

"Last year was one of the quickest signing seasons we've had and I think this one will be the same," says Roethlisberger's agent, Leigh Steinberg, whose first client was Steve Bartkowski, the first overall choice in 1975. "The way the system is set up now, you know just about what your player will get. You just have to work out the details."

Dallas mulls decision on disgruntled Bryant

From wire reports

IRVING, Texas — Antonio Bryant paid a brief visit to the Cowboys' Valley Ranch facility Friday, and the third-year receiver is expected back Monday for a visit with coach Bill Parcells to determine his status with the team.

During on-field work last month, Bryant threw a jersey at Parcells after an altercation that included wide receiver Keyshawn Johnson and wide receivers coach Todd Haley. Bryant resumed working out in Dallas a few weeks ago but not at the team's facility.

The Cowboys have delayed making a decision about Bryant. A few teams have called about trading for Bryant, but the Cowboys want a significant draft pick in return. Though headstrong, Bryant does possess talent, and the team's wide receiving group is not deep.

Agent Lamont Smith said Bryant wants to stay in Dallas.

"He understands that he needs to control his actions," Smith said.

Meanwhile, safety Darzen Woodson will meet again with doctors Monday before probably undergoing surgery to repair a ruptured disk Tuesday.



The Cowboys want to have surgery performed as soon as possible so Woodson does not miss much of the regular season. Owner and general manager Jerry Jones said the most Woodson would miss is eight weeks, which would run into the home opener Sept. 19 vs. Cleveland.

"We've had good experiences with former players with this type of surgery," said Jones, citing Troy Aikman, Charles Haley and Jay Novacek as examples. "Darren has had an excellent off-season relative to his conditioning."

Raiders release C Robbins

ALAMEDA, Calif. — Former Pro Bowl center Barret Robbins was released by the Oakland Raiders on Friday, a week after he and two other players were fined three game checks for testing positive for the steroid THG.

Robbins confirmed that he had failed the exam and added: "I'm OK. I just don't want to talk about this right now."

Stars and Stripes

Messages of Support

★ Hello, Saying the words hank you just is not enough. We think of you all hours of the day and pray and hope for your safe return. We have not always supported President Bush's handling of this matter, as many citizens have not, as we are sure you know. But that does not diminish for one moment our admiration and our support for you. We will ALWAYS thank each and every man and woman that is serving in

Oshkosh, Wisconsin

★ I am a veteran of four years in the Army. My hubby is still in and working on 20. Thank you, I wish I was there helping you all. Come home soon. Amy M. Anderson

this time of war. We are proud of you and your service, and wish you God Speed. Sincerely, Richard and Susan from



I am so proud to be a American and all of you. Most of you in your 20's and have your whole life yet to live. To sacrifice your lives for us and America, even the whole world. So some day there will be peace in the world. Just maybe the world will not have wars. I just hope more people over there are for you and freedom then what said in the news. That's what it's all about. F E E D O M. Don't get discouraged, be safe, because most of American are with you all... YOU ALL TAKE CARE. ERIC FROM ST. LOUIS

NFL training camp capsules

Dallas (10-6)

OPEN CAMP: July 20, Overland, Calif.
LAST YEAR: Bill Parcells had an immediate impact on the Cowboys' season with his games and made the playoffs for the first time in 10 years. Dallas didn't expect a repeat.

IMPORTANT ADDITIONS: WR Keyshawn Johnson, DE Marcus Willey, OS Vinny Testaverde, and Drew Hendrix.

CAMP NEEDS: Linebackers: Stephen Pierce and Jack Borker. Quarterbacks: QB Bruce Johnson, 2003 second-round pick injured in training camp last year.

IMPORTANT LOSSES: RB Troy Hambrick, DE Elmer Ekeanu, WR Gary Gullatt, CB Mario Henderson. Parcells' starting cornerback to compete for the starting job with his old coach Quincy Carter is the incumbent starter and former pro baseball player Henderson is better conditioned, the Cowboys expect another playoff appearance.

Seattle (10-6)

OPEN CAMP: Aug. 2, Cheney, Wash.
LAST YEAR: First playoff appearance since 1999 was a dramatic victory over the Green Bay. Despite an interception returned for the final TD, QB Matt Hasselbeck showed he's for real: a team record 3,841 yards passing in 16 games.

IMPORTANT ADDITIONS: DE Grant Wooten, CB Bobby Taylor, QB Josh Allen, RB Tubs, rookie SS Michael Boulware.

CAMP NEEDS: QB Shaun Springs, SS Reggie Tongue, DT John Rankin.

IMPORTANT LOSSES: QB Matt Hasselbeck, RB Tubs, DT John Rankin. Seattle's franchise player, is expected to miss a camp for the third straight year as he seeks a long-term contract.

Stars and Stripes



Hello, my name is Ana. I'm student and from Brazil... I really admire you soldiers for fighting for freedom.



It's very important to be there but God is protecting and guiding you wherever you go. Me and my family are praying for you all.



We support each and every one of you in Iraq to keep our safety in the USA. We are praying for each of you, that you will all come home safely to your families and loved ones. We have a huge sign at work with our local troops and troops who are our family members. Our community is organizing a SUPPORT YOUR TROOPS rally. You all have lots of support back home and do not forget that!!! We love each and every one of you!! KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK!!!! GOD BLESS!!



I know that the Troops are and have been our Heroes for Centuries, to keep our freedoms intact. Thanks for giving your time to us and our freedoms.



Thank you for taking care of business. You're doing and outstanding job. Come home safely.



You are the bravest individuals that I would ever have the honor to meet. You represent what our

EXPECTATIONS: Sky high. Seattle's 10 wins were the most in 17 years and the division was bolstered by an 8-0 home record.

Minnesota (9-7)

OPEN CAMP: July 20, Minnetonka, Minn.
LAST YEAR: Started 6-0 and led week NFC North until a 17-10 season 50 snap, when Arizona scored on a fourth-down play to tie the game.

IMPORTANT ADDITIONS: CS Antoine Winfield, WR Marcus Robinson, T Darnell Wright, TE Jermaine Phillips, RB Fred Johnson, QB Brad Johnson, QB Brad Johnson, QB Brad Johnson.

CAMP NEEDS: Establish linebacking corps. Linebackers: Chris Chubb, RB Fred Johnson, QB Brad Johnson, QB Brad Johnson.

EXPECTATIONS: With nearly every key starter returning, several holes filled through free agency and the draft and the motivation of last year's collapse against the Cardinals, the Vikings and coach Mike Tice will be a huge factor if they don't make the playoffs.

Detroit (11-5)

OPEN CAMP: July 31, Allen Park, Mich.
LAST YEAR: Met low expectations with five victories, matching win total from previous two seasons, and set NFL record with 24th consecutive home win.

IMPORTANT ADDITIONS: G Damien Woody, T Fred McCarri, WR Roy Williams, RB Keno, RB Jonathon Green, RB Larry Green.

CAMP NEEDS: Linebackers: Williams and Jones must learn Steve Mariucci's offense quickly, and WR Charles Rogers (shoulder) has to be healthy.

EXPECTATIONS: QB Jay Harrington, entering his third season, has some talented skill players around him for the first time, but the young Jay Harrington can produce with his improved surrounding cast and defense. The Lions might finally be respectable.

New Orleans (8-8)

OPEN CAMP: July 29, New Orleans.
LAST YEAR: Started 1-4 and missed playoffs for third straight year. The only difference was in the past two, the Saints started strongly and finished poorly. The 2003 lowlight came in a win: Joe Horn pulling out a cell phone after a touchdown, an embarrassing act that cost him a job in the league and team.

IMPORTANT ADDITIONS: WR Mike Smith, RB Thomas Jones, QB John Taylor, G Robbie Brown, QB John Taylor, G Robbie Brown.

CAMP NEEDS: Establish linebacking corps. Linebackers: Mike Smith, RB Thomas Jones, QB John Taylor, G Robbie Brown, QB John Taylor, G Robbie Brown.

EXPECTATIONS: Saints must make the playoffs. After his first season in 2000, in which he won a playoff game for the first time, coach Jim Haslam has failed to get the team back on track.

Tampa Bay (7-9)

OPEN CAMP: July 30, Lake Buena Vista, Fla.
LAST YEAR: Became the second straight defending champion to miss the playoffs, faltering because of injuries, uncharacteristic breakdowns on defense and inconsistency on offense. Coach Jon Gruden shelved WR Keyshawn Johnson and also changed General Manager Rick McKay, architect of the team's success.

IMPORTANT ADDITIONS: RB Charlie Garner, RB Charlie Garner, RB Charlie Garner, RB Charlie Garner, RB Charlie Garner, RB Charlie Garner.

CAMP NEEDS: Establish linebacking corps. Linebackers: Charlie Garner, RB Charlie Garner, RB Charlie Garner, RB Charlie Garner, RB Charlie Garner, RB Charlie Garner.

EXPECTATIONS: Gruden and new GM James L. White Webster.

EXPECTATIONS: Gruden and new GM James L. White Webster.

Bruce Allen has retorted the team to make a run toward another Super Bowl now. A mere return to the playoffs will be enough to satisfy fans whose expectations were heightened by the team's championship run in 2002.

Chicago (7-9)

OPEN CAMP: July 26, Bourbonnais, Ill.
LAST YEAR: Lost 17-10 to the Packers in his job after four losing seasons in five years.

IMPORTANT ADDITIONS: Head coach Lovie Smith, RB Thomas Jones, QB John Taylor, G Robbie Brown, QB John Taylor, G Robbie Brown.

CAMP NEEDS: Establish linebacking corps. Linebackers: Lovie Smith, RB Thomas Jones, QB John Taylor, G Robbie Brown, QB John Taylor, G Robbie Brown.

EXPECTATIONS: Joris gives the offense a breather, and a pass catcher for young RB Rex Grossman, who must mature quickly.

EXPECTATIONS: Joris gives the offense a breather, and a pass catcher for young RB Rex Grossman, who must mature quickly.

San Francisco (5-11)

LAST YEAR: A 17-card run on the road was a killer as the 49ers crashed under new coach Jim Harbaugh following a playoff year.

IMPORTANT ADDITIONS: G Justin Smith, RB Curtis Conway, WR Curtis Conway, WR Curtis Conway, WR Curtis Conway, WR Curtis Conway.

CAMP NEEDS: Establish linebacking corps. Linebackers: Justin Smith, RB Curtis Conway, WR Curtis Conway, WR Curtis Conway, WR Curtis Conway, WR Curtis Conway.

EXPECTATIONS: Gruden and new GM James L. White Webster.

EXPECTATIONS: Gruden and new GM James L. White Webster.

force although his arm strength is questionable. There could be additional problems if QB Steve Young is injured. He has played four days after the finale.

EXPECTATIONS: Not very high for a franchise that Smith brings from St. Louis for the past quarter-century.

Washington (5-11)

OPEN CAMP: July 31, Ashburn, Va.
LAST YEAR: The Redskins' first-round pick of his team and watched the season go down the drain. He was injured for the last five days after the finale.

IMPORTANT ADDITIONS: Hall of Fame coach Joe Gibbs, QB Mark Brunell, RB Clinton Portis, CB Shawn Springs, QB Mark Brunell, RB Clinton Portis, CB Shawn Springs.

CAMP NEEDS: Establish linebacking corps. Linebackers: Joe Gibbs, QB Mark Brunell, RB Clinton Portis, CB Shawn Springs, QB Mark Brunell, RB Clinton Portis, CB Shawn Springs.

EXPECTATIONS: Players need to master Gibbs' schemes. The coach made his players work hard in the classroom in the spring, hoping it translates into instant comprehension once the pads are on. He's starting camp as late as possible to cut down on wear and tear late in the season.

EXPECTATIONS: Too high. Gibbs has been welcomed back to the Redskins since he left after 12 years away, but probably only to stay in the season.

Atlanta (5-11)

OPEN CAMP: July 26, Greenville, S.C.
LAST YEAR: Losing QB Michael Vick to a broken leg in the first round of the draft and the firing of coach Dan Reeves. Vick returned to the field in December, but nothing could stop the slide of a decline.

IMPORTANT ADDITIONS: RB Reggie Torian, RB Reggie Torian, RB Reggie Torian, RB Reggie Torian, RB Reggie Torian, RB Reggie Torian.

CAMP NEEDS: Establish linebacking corps. Linebackers: Reggie Torian, RB Reggie Torian, RB Reggie Torian, RB Reggie Torian, RB Reggie Torian, RB Reggie Torian.

EXPECTATIONS: Gruden and new GM James L. White Webster.

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SPORTS



Judge allows sex life
of Bryant's accuser
to be heard in trial, Page 27

NFL's summer camp set to kick off

July offers mix
of holdouts,
holdovers and
newcomers

BY DAVE GOLDBERG
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — For seven months, Washington fans have anticipated the opening of Joe Gibbs' first training camp in 12 years as coach of the Redskins.

Too bad they won't get to see much of it.

The Redskins open training camp Saturday at their home training base in Ashburn, Va., one of 32 camps that start this week. Denver, Chicago, Carolina and St. Louis begin the process Tuesday. But Washington fans, who have waited for this week since their Hall of Fame coach was rehired last January, may not get to see much. While most teams encourage their supporters to attend drills, the new/old coach probably is restricting fan access.

"I don't care if you're taking a

■ **Training camp capsules**
for every team, Pages 30, 31



Hall of Fame coach Joe Gibbs is back with the Redskins, raising typically high expectations once again in the nation's capital.



New England enters training camp as the favorite to win its third championship in four years, which would match Dallas' run from 1992 to 1995. Patriots defensive lineman, from left, Richard Seymour, Ted Washington and Bobby Hamilton, will be joined by first-round draft pick Vince Wilfork from the University of Miami.

test or what you're doing," Gibbs says. "If there's things walking around, and people talking, good-looking girls walking up and down the sidelines and everything, then generally what people do is: 'I'd rather look over there than look out here.' So that's a problem, distractions are."

Despite the return of Gibbs and owner Daniel Snyder's annual signing flurry, Washington isn't the favorite in its division, the NFC East.

That designation goes to Philadelphia, loser of three straight conference title games. The Eagles have added pass rusher Jevon Kearse and Terrell Owens, the standout wide receiver they desperately needed. Still, that guarantees little in this era of parity, especially with potential locker room problems after the depart-

ture of cornerback and team leader Troy Vincent to Buffalo and the addition of the tempestuous and moody Owens.

The overall Super Bowl favorite might again be New En-



Patriots coach Bill Belichick

gland, which could equal the mark of the 1992-95 Dallas Cowboys with three titles in four years.

Despite a recent trend of teams coming from nowhere — from the St. Louis Rams in '99 to Carolina last season — the Patriots seem to be as solid as last year, when they won their second Super Bowl in three years by beating the Panthers 32-29 in the final seconds.

New England also could break Miami's 31-year-old modern record of 18 straight victories. If the Patriots win their first three games, they'll go for No. 19 against the Dolphins in Foxboro, Mass., on Oct. 10. The 63-year-old Gibbs, who won three Super Bowls and reached a fourth during his

tour in Washington from 1981-92, is one of seven new coaches.

The "newcomers" include three other retreats — Tom Coughlin (formerly of Jacksonville) with the New York Giants, Norv Turner (Washington) in Oakland and Dennis Green (Minnesota) in Arizona.

Green and Lovie Smith, the former St. Louis defensive coordinator who took over the Chicago Bears, bring the number of black head coaches in the NFL to five, the most ever.

There was a lot of player movement, too.

Owens, Kearse and Vincent are among the many Pro Bowl-caliber players who changed uniforms. The Giants signed 18 free agents after a 4-12 record in a season in which they were supposed to challenge for a title.

Big-time quarterbacks also have been shuffled, moves set off in part by the Giants' trade to select Eli Manning, brother of Peyton, the league's co-MVP with Indianapolis last season.

That led to the release for salary cap reasons of Kerry Collins, who quarterbacked the team in the 2001 Super Bowl.

Collins was replaced by Kurt Warner, the 1999 and 2001 league MVP and the MVP of the 2000 Super Bowl. He was released by St. Louis after two sea-

SEE CAMP ON PAGE 29



Giants quarterback Eli Manning will break into the NFL under the intense media scrutiny that only New York can provide.

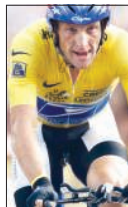
Arizona's
losing streak
grows to
team-record
12; Bonds'
25th homer
deals Cards
a rare loss

Page 24



A-Rod's
clutch hit
in ninth
helps
Yankees
overcome
Miller's
three HRs as Boston's deficit
increases to 9½ games

Page 23



Armstrong's
fifth win
of Tour
sets stage for
another victory
lap in Paris

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